THE AUSTIN
CHRONICLE

APD'S DRUG WAR
Blowback

MALEKKO HEAVY INDUSTRY'S
Harmonic Distortion

DRINKING IN
the Four Seasons

CITY MANAGER
Insiders

ARTHOUSE
Reflections in a Blank Wall

red-eyed and blue

BEING THERE

STEVE BILICH spent a year at **GROUND ZERO.** Now he has an award-winning film and a **BLACK SPOT ON HIS LUNG.**

by MARC SAVLOV • p.62

Vol. 27 No. 16 December 21, 2007

NO WAL-MART SUPERCENTER
rg4n
Responsible Growth for Northcross
www.rg4n.org

DONATE TO THE LEGAL FUND TO STOP THE WAL-MART AT NORTHCROSS

GET YER' SELFISH SELF SOME TEC TOYS!

$29

Dell 17" CRT Monitor

Mini Aluminum Camera Tripod

$6 $7

15' USB Extension Cable

25 ' Network Cable $7

Laptop AC Adapters

$29-$39

Dell 3010 Color Laser Printer

$199 $39

Call 459-0026 or Shop On Line

@www.discountelectronics.com

E521 COMES WITH A BOX AND A BOW!

Dell E521 Dual Core PC Package

- 250GB SATA 1GB DDR2 DVDRW
- Vista Home Preloaded
- Includes: Speakers, Bluetooth Wireless Keyboard & Optical Mouse, 19" LCD Monitor

$699

$69

250GB IDE Hard Drive

Dell Latitude X300 Laptop

Pentium M 1.4 GHZ, 384 GB 20 GB WiFi, DVD/ CDRW Drive, Windows XP Preinstalled
Under 3 Pounds!

$599

Dell Latitude D600

PM, 1.4GHZ, 256MB 30GB, XP Pro, Preinstalled

$399

Dell A946

All In One Color Printer Fax Scanner Copier and Prints Photos Too!

$129

Lexmark Color Printer

Includes USB Cable

$179

DELL Optiplex GX240

P4, 1.7GHZ, 256MB, 20GB, Windows 2K, Preloaded, Includes 17" CRT Monitor, Keyboard & Mouse

Ergotron Industrial Laptop Cart

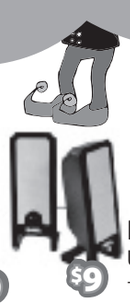
(Was $1999)
Our Price

$99

$199

Dell Precision 340 Computer

2.4 GHZ, 512MB, 40GB, Windows XP Pro, Preinstalled



$9

Dell A225

USB Powered Speakers – Great for laptops

$99

Compaq EVO P4 Computer

Loaded With Windows XP Professional, P4 1.7GHZ 20GB 256MB, Preinstalled

$79

Dell Optiplex GX150 Computer

1GHZ, 20GB, 256MB, Windows 2K, Preloaded

$25

Dell A525 3 Piece Speaker System

$14

Removable Hard Drive Enclosure

IDE or SATA

$29

DVDRW Drive

Burn your own DVDs!

15" Dell Flat Panel Monitor $119

Vintage Computer Microphone

$7

$19

2.5" External Hard Drive Enclosure

USB 2.0 – IDE or SATA

Dell TM2350

802.11 b/g 4 Port Wireless Router

$19

Logitech Wireless

Keyboard & Optical Mouse

$19

1GB Clip Style Mini MP3 Player $39

$5

Dell Wireless Bluetooth Mouse $9

Memory

	LAPTOP	DESKTOP
512 DDR2	$19	$15
1GB DDR2	$35	$29

Hard Drive

	LAPTOP	DESKTOP
80GB SATA	$59	$29
80GB IDE	$79	$49
160GB SATA	$99	$49

DISCOUNT electronics.com

1011 W. Anderson Lane • 459-0026 • Open Mon–Sat 9 to 9, Sun 11 to 6

PEACE ON EARTH, Y'ALL!

HOLIDAY SAVINGS FROM WATERLOO!

Hear Music

JAMES TAYLOR
One Man Band
$19.99 CD + DVD

Blue Corn

AUSTIN LOUNG LIZARDS
The Drugs I Need
$11.99 CD

A&M/Octone

THE HIVES
Black & White
$9.99 CD

Warner Brothers

R.E.M.
R.E.M. Live
$21.99 CD + DVD

Legacy

MILES DAVIS
Complete On the
Corner Sessions
$109.99 6 CD set

Legacy

FRANK SINATRA
A Voice in Time 1939-1952
$38.99 4 CD set

Island

U2
Joshua Tree Remastered
20th Anniversary Ed.
$24.99 CD + DVD

Funzalo

THE MOTHER TRUCKERS
Broke Not Broken
$11.99 CD

Reprise

JOSH GROBAN
Awake
$13.99 CD

Warner Brothers

WHITE STRIPES
Icky Thump
$13.99 CD

Warner Brothers

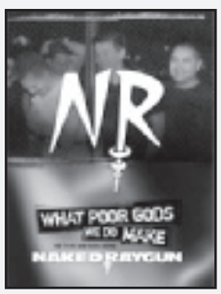
LINKIN PARK
Minutes to Midnight
$13.99 CD

Atlantic

LUPE FIASCO
Lupe Fiasco's The Cool
$13.99 CD

Tool JV

TOOL
Vicarious
$10.99 DVD



Riot Fest

NAKED RAYGUN
What Poor Gods We Do Make
$16.99 DVD

WATERLOO CARRIES A GREAT SELECTION OF GIFTS, PERFECT FOR EVERYONE ON YOUR LIST!

Blue Q body products, Leslie "Queen of Austin" magnet sets, plush stuffed animals by Ugly Doll and Lucky Kitty, kids musical instruments, Texas themed accessories, and more! And of course, don't forget our cool Waterloo branded gear: t-shirts, mugs, messenger bags, tote bags, magnets, shot glasses, caps, bottle openers, and more!

SALE ENDS 1-2-2008

WATERLOO

Compact Discs
Records • Video

10-11 Mon- Sat 11-11 Sun
600-A North Lamar Austin, TX 78703
www.waterloorecords.com
(512)474.2500

WHERE MUSIC STILL MATTERS

HOLIDAY SHOPPERS!

WATERLOO RECORDS & VIDEO GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE IN STORE OR ONLINE AT WATERLOORECORDS.COM

WATERLOO GLADLY ACCEPTS NATIONAL CHAIN COMPETITORS' GIFT CARDS*!

* card's value must be able to be verified by Waterloo via phone or internet.

GREAT GIFTS

THE SEVENTH ANNUAL Lucky

BLUE GENIE 7

Merry times

ART BAZAAR

20 DAY SHOW AND SALE

new location

Monarch Event Center at Lincoln Village

6406 North IH-35 Suite 3100
Austin, TX 78752 512-371-1711

monarcheventcenter.com

Did we mention the great gifts?

Dec. 5th through the 24th, 2007

with over 80 great artist and Crafts people

for more info visit www.bluegenieart.com ™

everyone deserves something special

FUN HOLIDAY SHOPPING

Open 10 Am Daily Free Admission

High-Waisted Leggings

Retail Locations:

The Drag
2316 Guadalupe St.
Phone: (512) 477-4900

SoCo
1325 S. Congress Ave.
Phone: (512) 441-1400

American Apparel®

To learn more about our company, to shop online, and to find all store locations, visit our web site:
www.americanapparel.net

contents

VOL. 27, NO. 16 DECEMBER 21, 2007

8 **PAGE TWO** Constitutionally Sound

10 **POSTMARKS** Think when you vote, *Maakies* is too small, and more

WX *'Postmarks' online – updated (almost) daily*
austinchronicle.com/webextra

NEWS

17 Politics Gift Guide: The Sequel; WilCo Constable Fight Continues; and More

POINT AUSTIN Undue Process

WX *Video of Officer Gary Griffin's confrontation with Joseph Cruz*
austinchronicle.com/webextra

WX *Hearing examiner's Griffin opinion*
austinchronicle.com/webextra

18 **BESIDE THE POINT** Now Dash Away! Dash Away! Dash Away, All!

30 **WISH LIST** Give 'til it helps: Part 2

31 **THE HIGHTOWER REPORT** Free Market Hypocrites; and Lobbyists Go Shopping

32 **THE INSIDERS** Meet the three homegrown candidates to replace City Manager Toby Futrell
BY WELLS DUNBAR

34 **DRUG WAR BLOWBACK** The shooting of Felix Rosales raises persistent questions about APD tactics
BY JORDAN SMITH

42 **LETTERS @ 3AM** *Zeroville*, Raucously

ARTS

45 They Call Him Dean Dempster; A Million in the Paramount's Stocking; Remembering UT Art Professor Gibbs Milliken; and Culture Flash

46 **REFLECTIONS IN A BLANK WALL** Florian Slotawa's exhibition tells us more about Arthouse than the artist
BY RACHEL COOK

48 **AFTER A FASHION** Your Style Avatar kisses and makes up with a certain Downtown club

50 **BOOKS** *I Celebrate Myself: The Somewhat Private Life of Allen Ginsberg* and *Autonauts of the Cosmoroute: A Timeless Voyage From Paris to Marseilles*

FOOD

53 Where to Dine and Sleep on New Year's Eve; and Food-o-File

54 **TRIO AT THE FOUR SEASONS** Along with a name change, TRIO at the Four Seasons on Lady Bird Lake has reinvented itself in ambience, decor, menu, and wine list
BY MM PACK

56 **RESTAURANT ROULETTE** A spin around our Restaurant Guide

SCREENS

60 Local WGA Members Rally; *American Drug War* at Antone's; and the Austin Film Critics Association Announces Top Pic(k)s

62 **TWO TOWERS, SIX YEARS, AND 16 MILLIMETERS** The remarkable journey – and uncertain toll – of Steve Bilich's 'Native New Yorker'
BY MARC SAVLOV

65 **TV EYE** Late-Night Fix

MUSIC

66 **OFF THE RECORD** Gary Clark Jr. visits *Honeydripper*, surveying the new Austin Music Hall, Tee Double goes global, under Future Clouds & Radar with Robert Harrison, and much more

68 **MALEKKO HEAVY INDUSTRY** Stepping up the ante on guitar pedals, ATX style
BY DARCIE STEVENS

70 **MUSIC DVDs** AC/DC, Tom Petty, Nirvana, Pearl Jam, Beatles, Paul McCartney, Bob Dylan, Ravi Shankar, Eric Clapton, Flatt & Scruggs, Grand Ole Opry, Cowboy Jack Clement, Holy Modal Rounders, Ramones, GG Allin, Ghostland Observatory, Oasis, etc.

75 **NEWS OF THE WEIRD** There's egg in eggnog? Can headbands be made from used condoms? And more odd questions answered.

CALENDAR

76 **COMMUNITY**
An elegant sufficiency of events awaits you, dear citizen, as the winter solstice occurs on Saturday, and then, later in the week, it's the birthday of both the adorable Pikachu and, traditionally, that holy and bearded insurgent from Nazareth

77 **DAY TRIPS** The Hill Country Regional Christmas Lighting Trail dresses 11 Central Texas communities in glowing finery

78 **PLAYING THROUGH** On baseball juicers and the president: Get away with whatever you can
SOCCER WATCH Wake Forest wins NCAA men's title, and more

WX *'Soccer Watch' online: Semiregular updates from everywhere*
austinchronicle.com/webextra

80 **ARTS**
Theatre: *The Assumption*
Classical: A Cathedral Christmas

PHOTOGRAPHY BY WILL VAN OVERBEEK

86 **FILM**
Charlie Wilson's War, *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Seville*, *Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story*, *P.S. I Love You*, *Juno*, *The Kite Runner*, *The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep*, *The Walker*, *The Great Debaters*

88 **SHOWTIMES**

96 **SPECIAL SCREENINGS** *Nutcracker*, *Emmet Otter's Jug-Band Christmas*: Uncut, High for the Holidays film series, 'Santa vs. the Snowman 3D'

99 **MUSIC**
RECOMMENDED 'Twas the night before Christmas…, plus Arc Angels, Amplified Heat, Ghost of the Russian Empire, Future Clouds & Radar, Li'l Cap'n Travis, ST 37, Forever Changes, Mary Welch y los Curanderos, Ephraim Owens, Thulsa Doom, Trans-Siberian Orchestra, and more

100 **VENUES**

102 **CLUB LISTINGS AND ROADSHOWS**

BACK

118 **COMICS** *How to Be Happy*, *Troubletown*, *Eyebeam*, and more
MR. SMARTY PANTS The virtual improbability of online coupling, Picasso's superstitious aversion to charity, and more

WX *Ask Mr. Smarty Pants – sooner or later, he'll answer*
austinchronicle.com/webextra

119 **CLASSIFIEDS**

129 **THE COMMON LAW** Consumers are prime targets during the holiday season

130 **CAR TALK** Distance determines durations, says Dad

133 **EASY STREET, PERSONALS**
THE LUV DOC A rambling recommendation to shore up your social calendar

135 **FREE WILL ASTROLOGY** Let a lightning strike reveal your hidden rot, Aquarius

CHRONIC HABITUALLY UPDATED BUZZ
austinchronicle.com/chronic

Chronic is now your one-stop blog shop for buzz on politics, sports, music, film, television, gaming, technology, design, gay stuff, and – do we even need to say it? – opinion. Our blogs as you knew them still exist, but now all posts will also feed into one crazy mash-up – newest on top, just like you like it.

NEW THIS WEEK!

EARACHE!: Death Valley Nights and Girlie Action survey the DVD scene, plus more **YEAR-END RHAPSODIZING**

PICTURE IN PICTURE: Film, TV, games, and more fun with **MOVING PICTURES**

CHRONIQUE: **DECAL-MANIA**, honoring **FLORIDA STYLE**, and a book ***S.E.W.*** sexy and essential, you'll want everyone to have it

THE GAY PLACE: **WHAT THE EFF?** Plus: The Kates and friends wish you a fairy Mary holiday.

NEWSDESK: More gift ideas from the body politic, and AG **GREG ABBOTT**'s early Christmas present to Tom Craddick

THE SCORE: Kristine Tofte goes behind the scenes with **CLUB 'CHRONICLE,'** and more sports blatherings and whatnot from here and afar

WX web extra

For this week's Web extras and more Web exclusives, go to:

austinchronicle.com/webextra.

THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE

PUBLISHER Nick Barbaro
EDITOR Louis Black

SENIOR EDITORS
MANAGING EDITOR Cindy Widner
FILM Marjorie Baumgarten
ARTS Robert Faires
MUSIC Raoul Hernandez
NEWS Michael King
NEWS MANAGING EDITOR Amy Smith
FOOD Virginia B. Wood
SPECIAL ISSUES, GUIDES, INTERNS Kate Messer
SCREENS, BOOKS Kimberley Jones

ASSOCIATE EDITORS
NEWS Cheryl Smith
MUSIC Audra Schroeder

CALENDAR
ARTS LISTINGS Wayne Alan Brenner
COMMUNITY LISTINGS Nora Ankrum
ASST. LISTINGS Anne Harris

STAFF WRITERS
Wells Dunbar, Katherine Gregor, Margaret Moser, Lee Nichols, Marc Savlov, Jordan Smith

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
TV EYE Belinda Acosta
OFF THE RECORD Austin Powell
VISUAL ARTS LISTINGS Benné Rockett
DAY TRIPS Gerald E. McLeod
MR. SMARTY PANTS R.U. Steinberg
LETTERS AT 3AM Michael Ventura
LITERA Ric Williams
CLASSICAL, DANCE LISTINGS Robi Polgar
FASHION Stephen MacMillan Moser
GAY PLACE Kate Getty
PLAYING THROUGH Thomas Hackett

PRODUCTION
ART DIRECTOR Jason Stout
PRODUCTION MANAGER Karen Barry
WEBMASTER Brian Barry
PREPRESS MANAGER Mark Gates
GRAPHIC DESIGNERS Tim Grisham, Shelley Hiam, Carrie Lewis, Chris Linnen, Liz Osting, Doug St. Ament
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS John Anderson, Jana Birchum
PROOFREADERS Mark Fagan, James Renovitch, Sofia Resnick, Darcie Stevens, Kristine Tofte
INTERNS Angela Armstrong, Gillian Courtney, Andy Denham, Meredith Greenwood, Taft Mashburn, Kathryn O'Shields, Sara Robberson, Dacia Saenz, Meghan Ruth Speakerman, Richard Whittaker

ADVERTISING
ADVERTISING DIRECTOR Carol Flagg
SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES Jerald Corder, Annette Shelton Patterson, Carolyn Phillips, Lois Richwine
ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES Jeff Carlyon, Ali Garnel, Serena Horn, Sandy Martinez, Elizabeth Nitz, Lori Whitley
RETAIL OPERATIONS MANAGER Tobi Gates
ADVERTISING ASSISTANTS Patrick Harmon, Christina Jupson
MARKETING DIRECTOR Erin Collier
PROMOTIONS MANAGER Sadie Caplan
CHRONTOURAGE Brent Brown, Nicole Castanon, Adam David, Molly Hammond, Patrick Harmon, Charles Herdrick, Cat Herring, Sylvia Lam, Stacey Steger, Cameran Surles, Jason Young, Logan Youree; Photographers: Alyssa Kristen, Rebecca Sikes
PROMOTIONS DIRECTOR/PERSONALS/CIRCULATION Dan Hardick
CLASSIFIEDS DIRECTOR Cassidy Frazier
SENIOR CLASSIFIED ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES Michael Bartnett, Brian Carr
LEGAL NOTICES Jessica Nesbitt
CLASSIFIED ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES Yasmine Anderson, Cody Kirk, Bobby Leath, Gina Probst, Andrea Skola
NATIONAL ADVERTISING The Ruxton Group
NATIONAL SALES DIR. Susan Belair
MIDWEST SALES DIR. Stephen M. Lee
SOUTHWEST SALES DIR. Terri Smith

OFFICE STAFF
CONTROLLER Michael Schwarz
SUBSCRIPTIONS Alan Metoskie
CREDIT MANAGER cindy soo
ACCOUNTING Liz Franklin
ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT Jenn Nuzzo
INFO CENTER Jessica Cape, Alan Metoskie
SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR Steve Raymond
ASST. SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR Frederick Stanton
SPECIAL EVENTS Elizabeth Derczo

CIRCULATION
Erik Conn, Perry Drake, Joy Fairchild, Tom Fairchild, Ruben Flores, Brent Malkus, Michael McKenzie, Grant Melcher, Paul Minor, Dane Richardson, Motorcycle Michael, Rex Fourtwenty, Jeff Watts, Nicholas Wibbelsman, John Williamson, David Williford

CONTRIBUTORS
Michael Agresta, Lynda Barry, Greg Beets, Rob Brezsny, Toddy Burton, Jim Caligiuri, Laurel Chesky, Rachel Cook, Lloyd Dangle, Steve Davis, Amanda Douberley, Peat Duggins, Doug Freeman, Art Guajardo, Melanie Haupt, Sam Hurt, Seabrook Jones, Michael Kellerman, Tom and Ray Magliozzi, Michael May, Gary Miller, Tony Millionaire, Scott Moser, Daniel Mottola, Will van Overbeek, MM Pack, Doug Potter, Kimberly Reeves, Sara Robberson, Josh Rosenblatt, Patricia J. Ruland, Chuck Shepherd, Meghan Speakerman, Craig Staggs, Darcie Stevens, Avimaan Syam, Kristine Tofte, Tom Tomorrow, Roy Tompkins, Jay Trachtenberg, Shannon Wheeler, Richard Whittaker, Todd V. Wolfson

The Austin Chronicle offers nonpaying internships. Contact Kate Messer at the intern hotline, 454-5765 x303.

VERIFIED AUDIT

The Austin Chronicle **(ISSN: 1074-0740) is published by The Austin Chronicle Corporation weekly 52 times per year at 4000 N. I-35, Austin, TX 78751. (512) 454-5766**

©2007 Austin Chronicle Corp. All rights reserved.
Subscriptions: One Year: $60 2nd class. Half-year: $35 2nd class. Periodicals Postage Paid at Austin, TX. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Austin Chronicle, PO Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765.

Unsolicited submissions (including but not limited to articles, artwork, photographs, and résumés) are not returned.

Car Donation
Hope House

WITH YOUR HELP - CARE IS PROVIDED FOR 40 SEVERELY CHALLENGED CHILDREN FROM VIRTUALLY EVERY AUSTIN NEIGHBORHOOD. (FOR OVER 40 YEARS).

- Run by Hope House – we're not a vehicle broker
- Funds generated go directly to the needs of our children
- Tax Deductible
- Cars, Trucks, Boats, Property – any condition★

THANK YOU AUSTIN 515-6889 www.hopehouseaustin.com

Habana presents: CALLE 6 1st Annual Leather 'n Lace New Year's Eve Biker Bash

709 E. 6TH STREET (512) 443-4252

$85/Person Includes
Premium Gourmet Dinner Buffet
Entertainment
2008 Party Favors
Midnight Champagne Toast
Free Bike Parking

VIP Lounge Area
$115/Person Includes
Flash Lounge Area
Premium Gourmet Dinner Buffet
Entertainment
2008 Party Favors
Midnight Champagne Toast
Free Bike Parking
Midnight Dessert Platter on Table
Cocktail waitress service all night

Sponsored in part by: Cowboy Harley-Davidson of Austin

brought to you by Copper Star Events

Music by Pride and Joy DJ Amerykah
9pm to 2am
For Tickets, call 512-443-4252 for more information
email sbass59@austin.rr.com

COME CELEBRATE NEW YEAR"S AT SoCo WITH OUR SPECIAL MENU
SoCo 2728 South Congress (512) 443-4253

Give the glow of amber

from THE TURQUOISE DOOR
1208 SOUTH CONGRESS AVENUE 416-7100 OPEN DAILY

12-9 Daily
THE TURQUOISE DOOR
Open This Sunday

Sea Turtles in Sterling & Fossil Ivory

1208 S. Congress Ave. 416-7100

ON CITY COUNCIL CHANGING MALA SUERTE DRIVE TO BUENA SUERTE DRIVE:

"We also expect the council to take similar measures to rename Slaughter (may we suggest 'Justifiable Homicide'?), and Convict Hill (we're pushing for 'Overturned on Appeal Hill.')" – Richard Whittaker

newsdesk

CHRONICLE austinchronicle.com/newsdesk

DISCOVER PLANET K GIFTS
IN THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS...
FEATURING AUSTIN'S BEST SELECTION OF IMPORTED CIGARETTES, PIPES, VAPORIZERS, INCENSE, UNDERGROUND BOOKS, EROTICA & MORE

NORTH 9407 N. IH35 (Rundberg Exit) 832-8544
SOUTH 1516 S. LAMAR (West Side of Lamar) 443-2292
NEWEST STORE STASSNEY 727 W. STASSNEY (West of South 1st Across from Sonic) 707-9069
RESEARCH 11657 RESEARCH (Duval Exit) 502-9323
RIVERSIDE 2007 E. RIVERSIDE (Btwn Bedroom & Zocalo) 441-5555

Don't Forget our Holiday Hours:

OPEN LATE TIL 1 A.M.
FRI, SAT & SUN Dec. 21, 22, 23
OPEN EARLY 10 A.M. Sunday Dec. 23
Monday Dec 24 XMAS EVE
CLOSE around 8 P.M. (Call Us!)
Xmas Day - CLOSED

PLANETKTEXAS.COM OPEN TIL MIDNIGHT 7 DAYS A WEEK - SINCE 1990

Constitutionally Sound

At its best, the government is an exploding, bloated, graceless machine. That just means it's working. BY LOUIS BLACK

"Here I am, an old man in a dry month,
Being read to by a boy, waiting for rain
I was neither at the hot gates
Nor fought in the warm rain"
– "Gerontion," T.S. Eliot

This is the last of three columns that have been more or less on the same range of topics. Many, if not most, *Chronicle* readers will find all three of these columns more questionable and suspect than usual because they are based on, as was quite openly acknowledged in last week's column, the minority and much-derided opinion that "the [U.S.] government is not basically broken, though it has been intentionally jammed up by the current administration."

Constitutional Government

• The driving idea behind the design of this country's government in the Constitution is that of a democratic constitutional republic, not a democracy. The crucial distinction is that in a republic the majority still controls legislative power, but when it exercises that power, it must do so without infringing, abridging, or compromising the rights of minorities. (When the document was drafted, minorities were considered to be those whose political, religious, and ideological philosophies differed from those of the majority; the concept later came to encompass race, sexual orientation, and sex.)

• Therefore, structurally, the movement of government is designed to be slow, cumbersome, and easy to block.

• As specifically as the Constitution empowers each of us and protects our opinions, it does exactly the same for all other citizens, including those with whom we most violently disagree.

• Religious, political, and activist true-believers of every stripe may talk the talk of constitutional fidelity, but all too often their positions, policies, and goals actually negate it.

• Way too often, when people complain about the failures of the federal government because the Constitution is not being strictly followed, their real problem is the exact opposite: The principles are being too closely followed. Listening to most political dialogue, no matter the allegiances and ideological beliefs of the speakers, what one hears most often is contempt for constitutional principles rather than any kind of respect. Isn't one of the most common complaints we all make about our government that one group or another has too much power, while our beliefs are not adequately represented? Bemoaned as the great failure of the implementation of the Constitution, the situation is instead a consequence of its success.

Politicians' Obligations

Politicians are constantly castigated for not following the will of their constituencies. Yet the Constitution is clear that elected officials are expected to place their own ideals above the will of the people. The president was given a four-year term and senators were given six-year terms so that they would be free to legislate in what they considered the country's best interests – and immune to the fads, whims, and mob passions of the majority.

The 'Successes' of the U.S. Government

The very idea of the Constitution's ambition that the government reasonably represents all its citizens demands a lack of cohesiveness, agility, speed, and consistency. Given the current population of approximately 300 million (supposedly) equally empowered citizens – with ideally there being no special regard given to class, race, position, income, politics, and family – at its best, the government is guaranteed to be an exploding, bloated, graceless machine out of Rube Goldberg's worst nightmare.

The 'Failures' of the U.S. Government

• Most often, the current failures of the government are framed by the successes of a past, which, unfortunately, has more basis in nostalgic fantasy than in reality. Every one of the current symptoms offered as evidence that these are the last days of a constitutional U.S. government has been with this country since the beginning (often in far more virulent forms), including the existence of a too-powerful upper class, an increasingly disenfranchised lower class, endemic corruption, partisan rather than national allegiances, parochial partisan policy goals, election fraud, ballot-tampering, the manipulation of election results, the disenfranchisement of specific groups (racial, political, religious, national), and the manipulation of election returns. If anything, more Americans are empowered now than have ever been.

• Obviously, if you believe that we are in the grip of a one-world conspiracy, helpless victims of the puppetry of the overlords, trapped in the minute manipulations of the world's bankers, or suffering in a history carefully controlled by Zionists, papists, communists, or Masons, then anything I have to argue here is pointless.

• Finally, the suggestion here is that – rather than being the results of decisions made by a ruling elite or demonic cabals – the failures, corruption, operations, ambitions, successes, and manipulations of government are caused by far more mundane, if no less mendacious, sources.

This all leads to my main theme that the greatest threat to our constitutional government is demonizing those with whom we disagree. In this vein, almost all political conflicts are cast as good vs. evil, the patriotic against the treasonous, rather than principled conflicts between those with opposing ideas and positions.

Office Closed Monday and Tuesday

The *Chronicle* offices will be closed on Monday, Dec. 24, and Tuesday, Dec. 25, and will reopen for regular business hours Wednesday, Dec. 26.

My Current Conflict With My Beloved Naderites

According to many of the responses to last week's musing on the Naderites, I am again doing what I am constantly preaching against: demonizing those with whom I disagree. The argument was that I was acting hypocritically, demonizing Naderites by calling them evil, which only meant that I was actually evil myself. The accusation was that my position was "let us not argue ideas but instead attack people!"

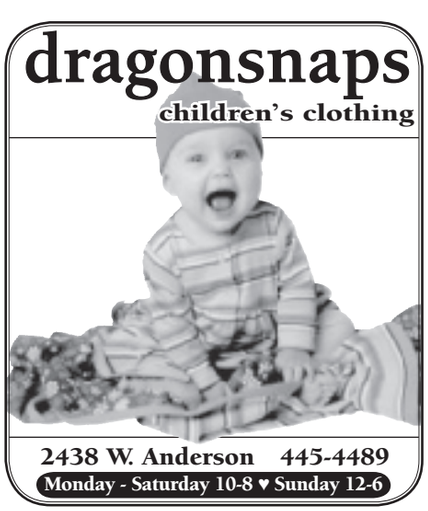
J'accuse back at you, my friends.

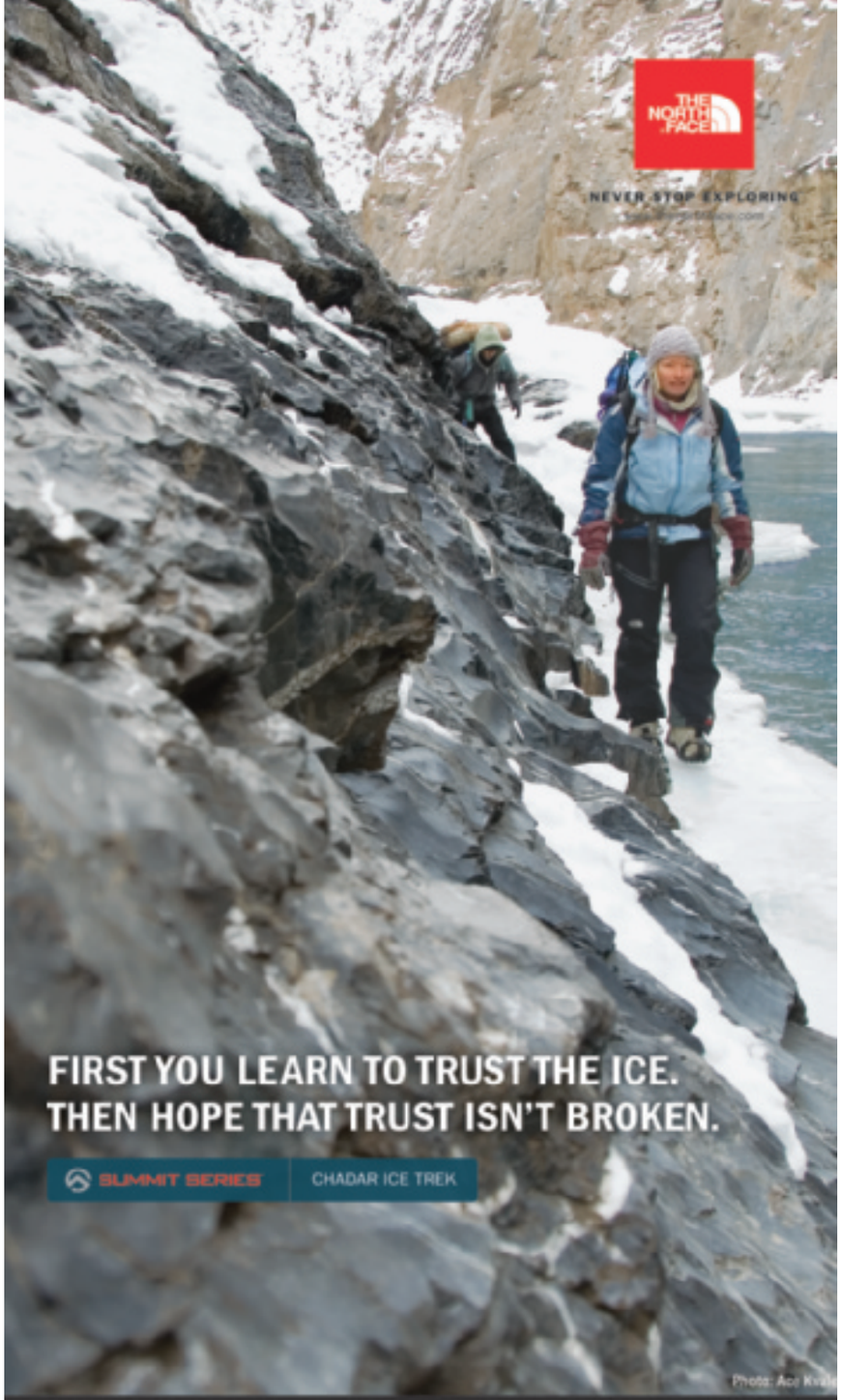
Certainly, I am no innocent; any complaints about the extent to which I have belabored my concerns over Ralph Nader and his acolytes' actions are right on target. But I have not accused them of being evil and intentionally doing harm, because that is quite clearly not the case.

This column presents my opinions, but always in the context of dialogue, I am well aware that my thoughts are not going to change anyone's mind, especially those in disagreement with me on many or most issues. My argument with Nader's supporters is precisely because I don't think they are evil or demons or intentionally doing harm. One does not bemoan the consequences of fascism to fascists – after all, isn't that exactly what they want? What I have perhaps implied, rather than stated clearly, is that my obsession with this group is because I believe we share similar beliefs, as well as concerns, about our government. Not on Nader, but on many issues of policy and platform, our beliefs have far more in common than differences. Given our common concerns, my position is that their actions, even if well-intentioned, have worked against these concerns, inadvertently causing much more damage than good.

Notice I say "my beliefs," while just as obviously they believe differently than I do. I am not calling them names or insulting their motivations. I am angry at their actions, an

continued on p.10





Denali Jacket

Whole Earth Provision Co.

2410 San Antonio Street,
478-1577
1014 North Lamar,
476-1414
South Lamar at Westgate,
899-0992

FREE PET EXAM
NOT REDEEMABLE FOR CASH.
NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER.
EXP. 12-28-07

50% OFF
VACCINATIONS & HEARTWORM TESTS FOR DOGS
NOT REDEEMABLE FOR CASH.
EXP. 12-28-07

50% OFF
VACCINATIONS FOR CATS
NOT REDEEMABLE FOR CASH.
EXP. 12-28-07

50% OFF
ROUTINE SPAYS AND NEUTERS FOR DOGS AND CATS ONLY
NOT REDEEMABLE FOR CASH.
EXP. 12-28-07

ELLS BRANCH
t & Bird Clin
1202 N. Mopa
339-8472

OUTH BRANC
t & Bird Clini
3 E. Ben Whi
SUITE F
462-0002

THE FURR FACTOR
CANINE EMPORIUM
AUSTIN'S HIPPEST PLACE TO SHOP FOR THE BEST IN DOG ACCESSORIES, NECESSITIES, LOCALLY MADE ITEMS, ORGANIC TREATS, & MUCH MORE!
10%-50% OFF EVERYTHING IN THE STORE
THURSDAY – SUNDAY DECEMBER 20TH-23RD!!
EXCLUDES FOOD & TREATS, TRAINING, AND SPECIAL ORDERS
2210 SOUTH 1ST BETWEEN OLTORF & LIVE OAK
512-502-5750 WWW.THEFURRFACTOR.COM
VISIT US THIS WEEKEND AND SUPPORT AUSTIN GREYHOUND RESCUE! AVAILABLE DOGS WILL BE ONSITE AND $1 FROM EVERY PURCHASE OVER $15 WILL BE DONATED!

Austin Dogtown
BOARDING & DAYCARE
537 Woodward St.
Austin, TX
P: 512. 535-4244
F: 535-1072
dogtownaustin.com
•HOURS•
MON - FRI: 7-11AM AND 4-7PM
(Mid-Day time is dedicated to the dogs!)
SAT: 8AM-NOON• SUN: BY APPT. ONLY

Beautiful
STRAND BY STRAND EXTENSIONS
HAIR WEAVING
RINGS
LACE FRONTS
FUSION
LASH EXTENSIONS

HAIR EXTENSIONS
Ask for DeNight
515 W. 15th, 78701 • 512-267-9990
www.strandbystrand.net

anger that perhaps is too presumptuous, but it comes from shared values, from similarities – not because they are fifth columnists out to destroy all that is good and holy. As misguided as they find my criticisms of them, I find their actions and their justifications of theirs.

Al Gore lost for many reasons: a weak campaign, many strategic blunders, a dissatisfied electorate, Bill Clinton, and the willingness of the Republicans to pillage in Florida, among many others. Gore was not destined to win.

Now they can tap-dance and shadow-play all they want, but if Nader had not run and those people had still voted and voted their consciences, the results quite likely would have been different. What I despair and bemoan is that the consequence of their voting their consciences instead led to the invasion of Iraq, the gutting of the safety social net, a conservatively stacked Supreme Court, and the nihilistic anti-Americanism of the Bush administration's assault on the Constitution of the United States and the unity of the American people.

Yes, there is a difference between the two political parties, perhaps not as pronounced or wide as some might like it to be, but it is there. Maybe this is just a pointless argument about how many angels can dance on the head of a pin. But given that between 70% and 80% of the American people supported the invasion of Iraq, I think that progressives have more of a pragmatic responsibility to underprivileged and disenfranchised Americans, as well as to the world, than they do to vote their consciences or indulge in a boutique morality that has more to do with American privilege than with genuine compassion and concern with the day-to-day reality of all too many others in this world. ■

austinchronicle.com/postmarks
UPDATED DAILY

POSTMARKS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR must be signed with full name and include daytime phone number, full address, or e-mail address. Letters should be no longer than 300 words. We reserve the right to edit all submissions. Letters may not be edited, added to, or changed by sender once we receive them.

General e-mail address: **mail@austinchronicle.com**
Postmarks forum: **austinchronicle.com/forums/postmarks**
Mailing address: *The Austin Chronicle*, PO Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765

Questionable Tough-Guy Views

Dear Editor,

Robert Bryce, in the first sentence of his "If More CO_2 Is Bad … Then What" article [News, Dec. 7], declares that he is an "agnostic" on the "science of global climate change." But a few words later, he states that he no longer cares about the science because he has grown weary of the acrimony of the debate.

OK, fair enough, but then he goes on to say that, for moral, technological, and political reasons, it is both right and inevitable that people in the poorer countries have access to cheap and abundant energy, like us. This nicely blends the concepts of "morality" and "inevitability" (if the politics play out as he imagines) and, in the process, ignores a pressing and genuine moral question: whether the poor will suffer the most from global warming.

In any case, global warming will indeed occur, he says, triumphantly, in his concluding sentence, having argued at some length in the interval between his first sentence and his last that global CO_2 emissions are going to increase and that nothing can or should be done about it. It's going to get warmer; deal with it, he says.

Oops, but wait. Having argued with great vigor both the rightness and inescapability of increased Third World energy use, and having just concluded from that that it's gonna get hotter, Mr. Bryce suddenly remembers that he is an "agnostic" about the science … so he tacks on a very meager fig leaf to his apology for doing nothing … "regardless of the cause of that warming," even though he has just shown, to his own satisfaction if not that of his readers, that such warming is a certainty because of increased fossil-fuel burning.

It seems to me Bryce's position is not really one of agnosticism but one of trying to privilege tough-guy views to the effect that "there's nothing you can do about global warming, so suck it up and live with it," with a veneer of open-mindedness and objectivity implied, at least in liberal circles, by the word agnosticism.

Jim McCulloch

[Robert Bryce responds: Once again, a letter that attacks my motives and integrity rather than the conundrum of widespread energy poverty in the developing world and what to do about it. Jim McCulloch may not like my conclusions, but he offers not a single word refuting my thesis: that the crushing poverty in the developing world can only be alleviated by providing the residents of the developing world with more energy. And as those people use more energy – most likely fossil fuels – we will see more carbon-dioxide emissions, not less.]

Incorrect Test Scores

Dear Editor,

On Nov. 30 an article appeared in *The Austin Chronicle* entitled "The Slow Dying of Johnston High" [News], by Kimberly Reeves. Although the article was not about Reagan High School, Ms. Reeves took the opportunity to mention Reagan in a discussion of Johnston's test scores. Unfortunately, the information reported was incorrect.

"While other schools have scored lower on the state's standardized tests – comparable scores at Reagan, for instance, were well below Johnston in both language arts and math last year – it's Johnston that will pay the price for dismally and chronically failing the exit-level Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills."

In actuality, according to the Texas Education Agency Academic Excellence Indicator System report for 2007, Reagan High School students scored 6 percentage points higher on their 2007 English language arts TAKS Exam and 1 percentage point higher on their 2007 math TAKS exam than did students at Johnston High School.

Our intent for this response is not to bring negative attention to Johnston High School. In fact, we applaud the efforts of the students and faculty of Johnston High School. Change does not hap-

continued on p.12

12 DAYS OF SALES!
A Different Sale Begins Each Day!
All items remain on sale until December 24th

SAT. 1	SUN. 2	MON. 3	TUES. 4	WED. 5	THURS. 6
20% OFF Tea and Accessories	20% OFF Candles & Incense	20% OFF Statues	20% OFF Feng Shui Supplies	20% OFF Music	20% OFF Wall Hangings
FRI. 7	SAT. 8	SUN. 9	MON. 10	TUES. 11	WED. 12
20% OFF Bath & Body	20% OFF Clothing	20% OFF Singing Bowls	20% OFF Jewelry	20% OFF Salt Lamps	20% OFF Books

See stores for more details.
Chinese Herbs, Asian Arts, Books, Music, Gifts & more
WHITE CRANE HERBAL MEDICINE
NORTH: 2700 W. Anderson Lane 323-6720
SOUTH: 1902 S. Congress 693-HERB (4372)

The Millionaire's Journey
"Your Journey to Wealth Starts Today"
presents
Mr. Jack Canfield, author of
"Chicken Soup For The Soul"
Dr. Canfield's speech will feature his "Success Principles"
"In a high speed global economy every AMERICAN must develop a personal WEALTH strategy immediately!" - Robert Kiyosaki, Rich Dad Poor Dad
SATURDAY JANUARY 19th, 2008
from 9:45 - 4:00
Doors @ 9am
Featured on "Oprah"
At The Cullen Performance Hall on the UH main campus
Makes a Great Christmas Gift!
Reserve Your Seats Today!
www.themillionairesjourney.com or 1-877-441-8714

PORTRAIT HOMES
A Pasquinelli Company

There's a
first time
for everything.

When it comes to buying your first home, nobody makes it easier...or more affordable... than Portrait Homes.

From selecting the home that's just right for your lifestyle,
to crafting an affordable financing plan that fits your budget, we'll be there every step of the way.

Buttercup Creek Townhomes

From the $120s

512-260-6633

Take 183A North to the Brushy Creek/Cypress Creek Exit. Turn left at light. Turn right onto S. Bell Blvd and left onto Buttercup Creek Blvd. Buttercup Creek Townhomes are just ahead on the right.

Silver Oak Townhomes

From the $170s

3-Story Townhomes
From the $190s

512-259-7111

Take 183A North to the Brushy Creek/Cypress Creek Exit. Turn right onto Brushy Creek Rd. Silver Oak Townhomes are 0.8 miles ahead on the left at the corner of Mandarin Flyway.

Cypress Creek Townhomes

From the $140s

512-260-6888

Take 183A North to the Brushy Creek/Cypress Creek Exit. Turn left at light. Travel 1.7 miles on Cypress Creek Rd. and turn left onto Juliette Way. Cypress Creek Townhomes are just ahead on Little Elm Trail.

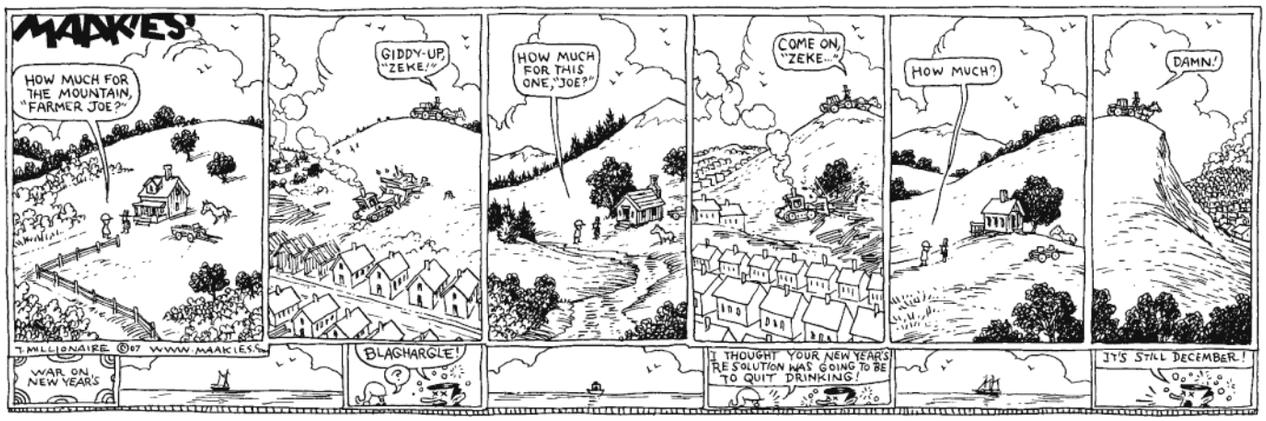
Mon-Sat 10-6 & Sun 12-6 • PortraitHomes.com • Texas' #1 Townhome Builder

pen overnight. Change takes time. Both Reagan High School and Johnston High School are in the process of implementing a redesign plan that has the potential for great change. However, the students and faculty can't do this alone. It is disheartening to our students and to our faculty when they are told that members of the community think they will not succeed. In order to excel, both Johnston and Reagan would benefit from the support of the community as well as from the support of the media. In fact, we encourage the community and the media to spend some time with us to learn about the positive things students are doing at both of these high schools. These successes certainly outnumber the negatives. If nothing else, we ask reporters to check their information prior to making a statement that has the potential to leave students discouraged, a statement that sends a message to all students that regardless of how hard they work, their efforts are not noticed or valued.

Please join us in our fight to make Reagan High School and Johnston High School the best that they can be. We are committed to this challenge. We encourage the community and the media to commit to this endeavor with us.

Yours truly,
Reagan High School Administration and Instructional Team
Ismael Villafane
Principal

[Kimberly Reeves responds: Principal Villafane is correct that Reagan has recorded better scores than Johnston. The scaled scores on reading/language arts for Johnston, Reagan, and Travis are almost identical in 2005 and 2006. In math, though, Reagan is better than Johnston, and Travis is better than Reagan. Johnston ends up in the third quartile; Travis and Reagan are in the second quartile of comparable campuses. For the 2007 data, comparisons are no longer possible, because Johnston is now grouped, demographically, with Lanier and Travis.]



What's Up With Marshall and Spec's?

Dear Editor,

I find it interesting that Wes Marshall and Spec's seem to have a synergistic relationship. Realizing that Spec's generally is the only wine and spirits retailer that advertises with *The Austin Chronicle* (owned by *Houston Chronicle*?) and the disconnect from local stores (Twin, Grape Vine, Wiggy's, etc.), it might make someone wonder about the abuse of readership.

Kevin Subramanya

[Food Editor Virginia B. Wood responds: The Austin Chronicle *is owned by Editor Louis Black and Publisher Nick Barbaro and is one of the last independently owned alternative newspapers in the country. There is a strict division between the editorial and advertising departments. In the 14 years I've been employed by* The Austin Chronicle*, I've never once been instructed to provide coverage to an advertiser, and none of the contributing writers under my supervision (including Wes Marshall) has ever been instructed to write about an advertiser, either. If Mr. Subramanya will do a search of our website or a Google search of Mr. Marshall's writing, he'll discover that Wes has given far more coverage to Twin Liquors (locally owned and also a regular advertiser here), Grape Vine Market (founded locally and now owned by Majestic Liquors of Fort Worth), Wiggy's (locally owned), or Austin Wine Merchant (locally owned) than he has to Spec's. A very rough search on our website found:*

Spec's: nine references, six by Wes
Twin Liquors: 35 references, six by Wes
Grape Vine: 81 references, 28 by Wes
Wiggy's: 15 references, nine by Wes

The other places have been around longer, so it's not a straight comparison, but also, both Twin Liquors and Grape Vine have been mentioned more often in the last year than has Spec's. So, we are not sure what this reader is referring to. Would he care to elaborate or be more specific?

Spec's is a Houston company that has opened three stores here in less than a year and advertises in a variety of publications, including The Austin Chronicle*. Since when does offering our readers consistent, reliable, well-informed information about wine bargains constitute abuse?*

Also, obviously, we're no relation to the Houston Chronicle*.]*

continued on p.14

Hottest
Austin's Holiday Gifts:
1. REUSABLE BAGS
2. HD TV
3. DIGITAL CAMERA
REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE SOLID WASTE SERVICES
austinrecycles.com

EVO IS A HIGH PROTEIN, LOW CARB, NO GRAIN DIET FOR DOGS AND CATS.

$2.00 OFF
ANY MEDIUM OR LARGE BAG OF INNOVA EVO. EXPIRES 1-18-08

TOMLINSON'S

CEDAR PARK
202 Walton Way
(In front of Wal-Mart)
512-260-8566

WESTLAKE
Randalls Shopping Center
3300 Bee Caves Rd.
Mon-Sat 9-7 • Sun 1-5
512-306-1121

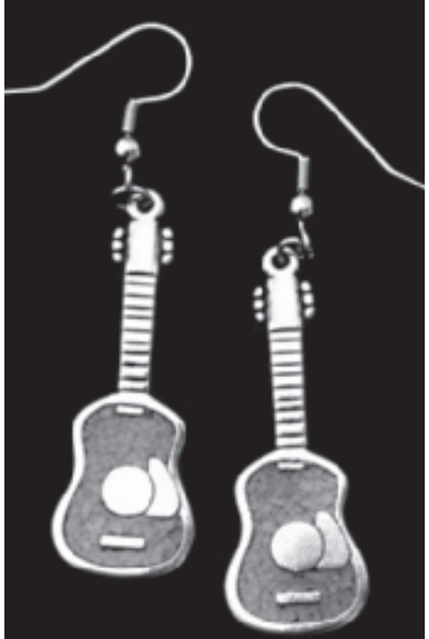
CENTRAL
908 East 49½ St. at Airport Blvd.
Mon-Fri 9-6 • Sat 10-4
Closed Sundays
512-452-1560

SOUTH
Lakehills Shopping Center
Ben White & South Lamar
Mon-Sat 9-8 • Sun 12-5
512-445-4549

FAIR BEAN COFFEE
Conventional and Fairly Traded Coffees Roasted in Store Daily

Ho Ho Ho Ho...t Chocolate
Merry Christmas South Austin!

2210 South First Street, Austin, Texas 78704
Open 6:30 am Weekdays, 7:00 am Saturdays, 8:00 am Sundays
www.FairBeanCoffee.com

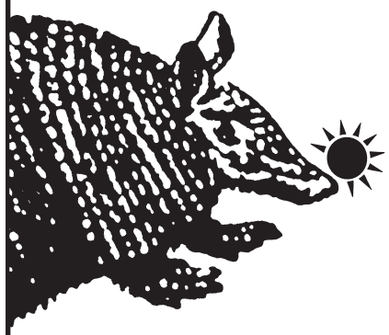


Guitar Earrings With Turquoise
$25 A Pair

THE TURQUOISE DOOR
Open Late
1208 S. Congress 416-7100

New Downtown Location

Armadillo Christmas Bazaar



December 14 – 24
11am – 11pm
Austin Convention Center
500 E. Cesar Chavez
Enter on Trinity near 2nd

Thursday 20
3:30–6 PM ....Cienfuegos
8–11 PM .....Albert & Gage

Friday 21
3:30–6 PM ....Sara Hickman
6–6:30 PM ....Mary Hattersley's Blazing Bows
8–11 PM .....Ruthie Foster

Saturday 22
12:30–3 PM ...The Eggmen
3:30–6 PM ....The Derailers
8–11 PM .....Van Wilks

Sunday 23
12:30–3 PM ..Heybale
3:30–6 PM ....Shelley King Band
8–11 PM .....Ponty Bone & the Squeezetones

Monday 24
12:30–3 PM ....Django's Moustache
3:30–6 PM .....Carolyn Wonderland
8–11 PM .....Texana Dames

Fine Art • Extraordinary Gifts • Live Music Nightly
Admission $6 Evenings & Weekends
$3 Weekdays before 7 pm
512-447-1605 • www.armadillobazaar.com

CAPITAL METRO MUSIC STAGE

Live Music & Art Keep Austin Cool

STRAIT MUSIC COMPANY

Holiday Sale!

When you buy from STRAIT, your 1st lesson is always free!

Guitars and Basses
20%-60% OFF
Including Fender, Ovation, Martin, Taylor, Yamaha, Ibanez & Takamine.

Ampeg, Crate & Fender All Amps
25%-50% OFF
As Low As $89

Super Deals on All The Latest
KEYBOARDS
Starting At $99

Complete Drum Sets $399

All Drum Sets 20%-40% OFF
Wide Selection of Hand Drums As Low As $79

Holiday Gift Packages Save Time & Money!

Reward Your Student!
12 months no interest on all YAMAHA Step-Up Band Instruments, plus factory rebates
UP TO $100!

Acoustic And Electric Guitar Packages
Acoustic $159
Electric $219
Includes: Guitar Bag or Case, Amplifier (Electric Only), Tuner, Instructional Video, Picks, Cord & Strap

Keyboard Packages
Complete Package with Software, Headphones, Pedal, A/C Adapter & Instructions
Starting at $139

All Yamaha CVP 300 Digital Keyboards 30% Off

All Baldwin Pianos 40% Off Save Thousands!

Yamaha Digital Pianos Starting at $899

New & Used Grand Pianos
20%-40% OFF New Grands
New Grands Starting at $5695

Console Pianos Brand New Only $2195

Accessories & Percussion Items at Blowout Prices!

Junior Drum Sets Only $119

Need a Stocking Stuffer?
many items under $10

20%-40% OFF All Band and Orchestra Instruments

Computer M/Audio Interfaces Starting at $99

Full Size Acoustic Guitars Starting at $99

Roland Digital Recorders Starting at $229

When You Compare
SERVICE, SELECTION, PRICE, QUALITY & FINANCING
You Can't Beat a "Strait" Deal

SOUTHWEST
2428 W. Ben White @ S. Lamar
476-6927

LAYAWAYS WELCOME

STRAIT MUSIC COMPANY

6 MONTHS NO INTEREST NO PAYMENT

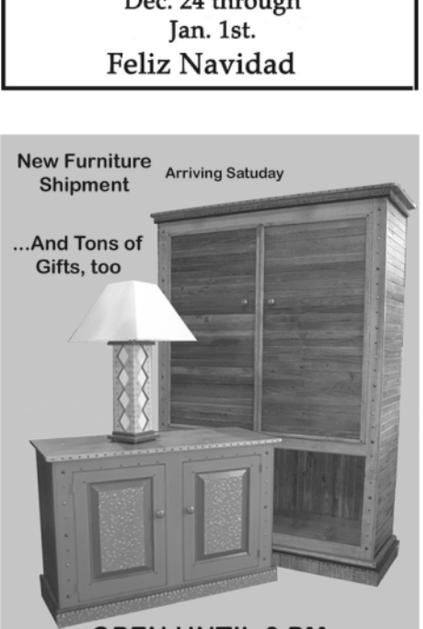
NORTHWEST
13945 Hwy. 183 N. @ Hwy. 620
918-3743

Holiday Hours MON-SAT 9:30-7:30, SUN 1-6
SPECIAL HOLIDAY FINANCING! $0 DOWN

las manitas
AVENUE · CAFE
•211 Congress Avenue •472-9357

We will be closed from
Dec. 24 through
Jan. 1st.
Feliz Navidad

New Furniture Shipment Arriving Satuday
...And Tons of Gifts, too



OPEN UNTIL 8 PM
Thursday to Sunday 12/20-23
ec·lec·tic
700 North Lamar 477-1816

30% off
All
Accessories
FOUR ◘ HANDS
H O M E
2090 WOODWARD STREET • AUSTIN, TX 78744
tel 512.225.0333 • fourhandshome.com
We will be closed Mon. Dec 24-Wed. Dec 26

POSTMARKS :: FROM P.12

Mr. Millionaire Asked Me to Ask You

Dear Editor,

While I am ecstatic to see that you have finally added the divine and illustrious *Maakies* to the (surprisingly small and hidden) *Chronicle* Comics page [this week see p.12], I have to say that the size which you are currently running it is a serious bummer. As someone who has excellent eyesight (and who couldn't make out the punch line of the substrip last week) I can only imagine that the gorgeous line work of Tony Millionaire is being overlooked/ignored by the folks who actually read that page and, thus, squandered.

In fact, I was at a booksigning by Mr. Millionaire a couple of weeks back, and while we spoke of your paper's quizzical decision on the printed size of the strip (his take: "Um, thanks?"), he specifically asked me to ask you to increase the size so that more folks would be able to enjoy it.

So that's what I'm doing.

Love is a flower,
C. Andrew Boyd

Think Carefully When You Vote

Dear Editor,

When deciding who gets your vote for president next year, think about if you like the way the country has been heading the last 42 years. During this time we have stopped producing almost all consumer products. We buy it all from other countries now. We have been involved in unpopular wars. Now look at the presidents for the last 42 years. We have had 12 years of Democratic presidents and 30 years of Republican presidents. If you want things to change you may as well start at the top.

Briefly consider the granddaddy of all Republican vote issues: *Roe v. Wade*. First it was passed when a Republican was in office. Then, we have had, what, four Republican presidents since that have run on a stance of overturning *Roe v. Wade*? In 30 years they haven't done it! I think they are only concerned with your vote.

Steven McCloud

Austin Is Even Better Now

Dear Editor,

As a 61-year-old Austin native, I have this to say to Colby Spath and Rebecca Maindonald: I'm glad you're here! And I liked your letters! ("Postmarks," Dec. 14.)

Rebecca put it beautifully: We do need "to see the bright future Austin holds" for all of us, no matter when we arrived on the scene.

Yes, Austin was a great place in the past. But our town is even better now, in my opinion.

With the influx of new people, we have had an onslaught of fresh ideas, talents, and perspectives.

What has growth done for Austin? Well, let's see what has come online in the past couple of decades:

- An arts scene that is firing on all cylinders.
- Live music of infinite variety playing nightly in smoke-free venues.
- Wonderful events like South by Southwest, the Austin Film Festival, Austin City Limits, and the Texas Book Festival.
- A plethora of fine restaurants.
- Shopping opportunities that could have only been dreamed of a few decades ago, from larger stores like Central Market and Whole Foods to a host of unique independent places.
- A job market offering many more attractive career paths than were available before.

My wife and I embrace these changes. In fact, we are going to move Downtown to a high-rise condo next year, so we can be immersed in the urban lifestyle of our thriving core district that growth has fostered.

Does growth need to be managed? Of course. But the bottom line makes it all worthwhile.

Sincerely,
Forrest Preece

2007
AND
BEYOND!

Catch one of the last trains of 2007. Ride the Bertram Flyer on Saturday, December 22. Train departs at 10:00 AM from the Cedar Park Depot (401 East Whitestone Blvd.) for a 3-hour round trip. Tickets start at just $16 for adults and $11 for children.

Call now to reserve your tickets for the Bertram Flyer, or to book tickets for our January and February Hill Country Flyers to Burnet.

AUSTIN STEAM TRAIN

RESERVATIONS 477-8468

austinsteamtrain.org
A nonprofit volunteer organization.

CLARKS
UNSTRUCTURED

UNFASTEN
Brown-black. Incredibly comfortable Mary Jane.
Lambskin linings - air ventilation system
SHOE BOXES
Austin's Affordable Fashion Boutique
Across from Northcross Mall • 323-0554
www.shoeboxesaustin.com
Fitting shoes since 1976
The Fitting Stool
Footwear for Living
Barton Creek Mall • 328-0682

VERSAILLES QUEEN
7 PC BEDROOM SET
$1119
CLEARANCE SALE
SAVE 50-70%
WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

7 PIECE CAPPUCINO DINETTE
INCLUDES TABLE WITH 6 CHAIRS
$389

BICAST AND MICROFIBER SECTIONAL
$699
WE SELL Serta
OVER 12 DIFFERENT COMFORT LEVELS

DISCOUNT FURNITURE
MUEBLERIA ALEX
6801 N. LAMAR BLVD.
IN THE BIG TAN BUILDING ACROSS FROM WALGREENS
371-3004 FURNITUREDUDE.COM

Have you seen this box?

Buying your fresh produce from reusable containers instead of disposible cardboard boxes can eliminate up to 500 million pounds of waste per year.

Make a big difference and support the grocery stores and the produce companies who choose IFCO reusable plastic containers.

IFCO
RPC | PALLET | SYSTEMS

STYLE FILE

buy : sell : trade

BuffaloExchange.com

GET GREEN.

~ recycle

Austin: 2904 Guadalupe St.
(next to Toy Joy) 512.480.9922

NEW in Houston
249 W. 19th St.
Houston Heights
713.868.2400
&
1618 Westheimer
713.523.8701

Dallas:
3424 Greenville
214.826.7544

BUFFALO EXCHANGE®
New & Recycled Fashion

100% Of Your Household Waste Recycled

It Can Happen!!

The Greater Austin Area can be the first in America to recycle 100% of all household waste by using *Geo Plasma Recycling Technology!*

Imagine Totally Green!!

Does this interest you?
Please fill out our survey at
www.recycle100percent.com

Results are totally anonymous; no private or personal information is requested or collected. No advertisements; no popups; no cookies.
Thanks in advance!

PRIVO
by CLARKS

TRUMPET
Navy, black, stone, brown 6-10
Cute casual flat, great cushioning.

SHOE BOXES
Austin's Affordable Fashion Boutique
Across from Northcross Mall • 323-0554
www.shoeboxesaustin.com

Fitting shoes since 1976
The Fitting Stool
Barton Creek Mall • 328-0682

NEVER MISS AN EXPERIENCE!
TICKETCITY .com

HANNAH MONTANA
GEORGE STRAIT
MICHAEL BUBLÉ
TRANS-SIBERIAN ORCH.

472-TIXX
ticketcity.com/austin

FREE NEW AUSTIN DIRECTORY!

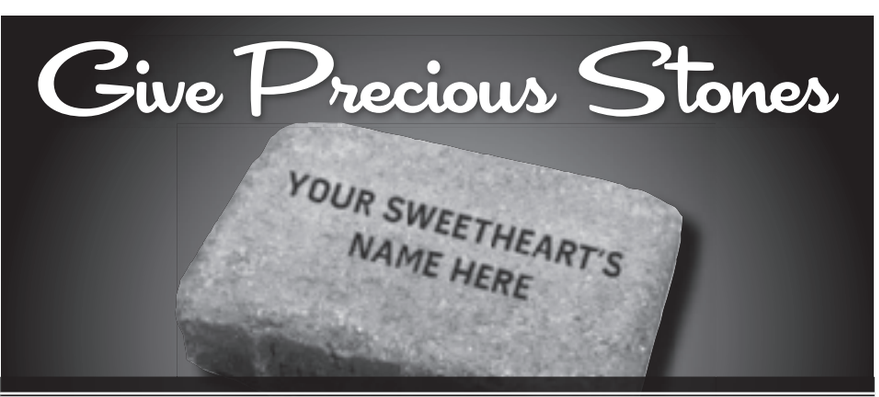
austin.com

...your town, your words, your way.

We invite everybody Austin to visit and share everything Austin. Music, Events, Shows, Art and more! Log on and add your business, club, band or event to our new Austin directory and events calander!

www.austin.com

Give Precious Stones

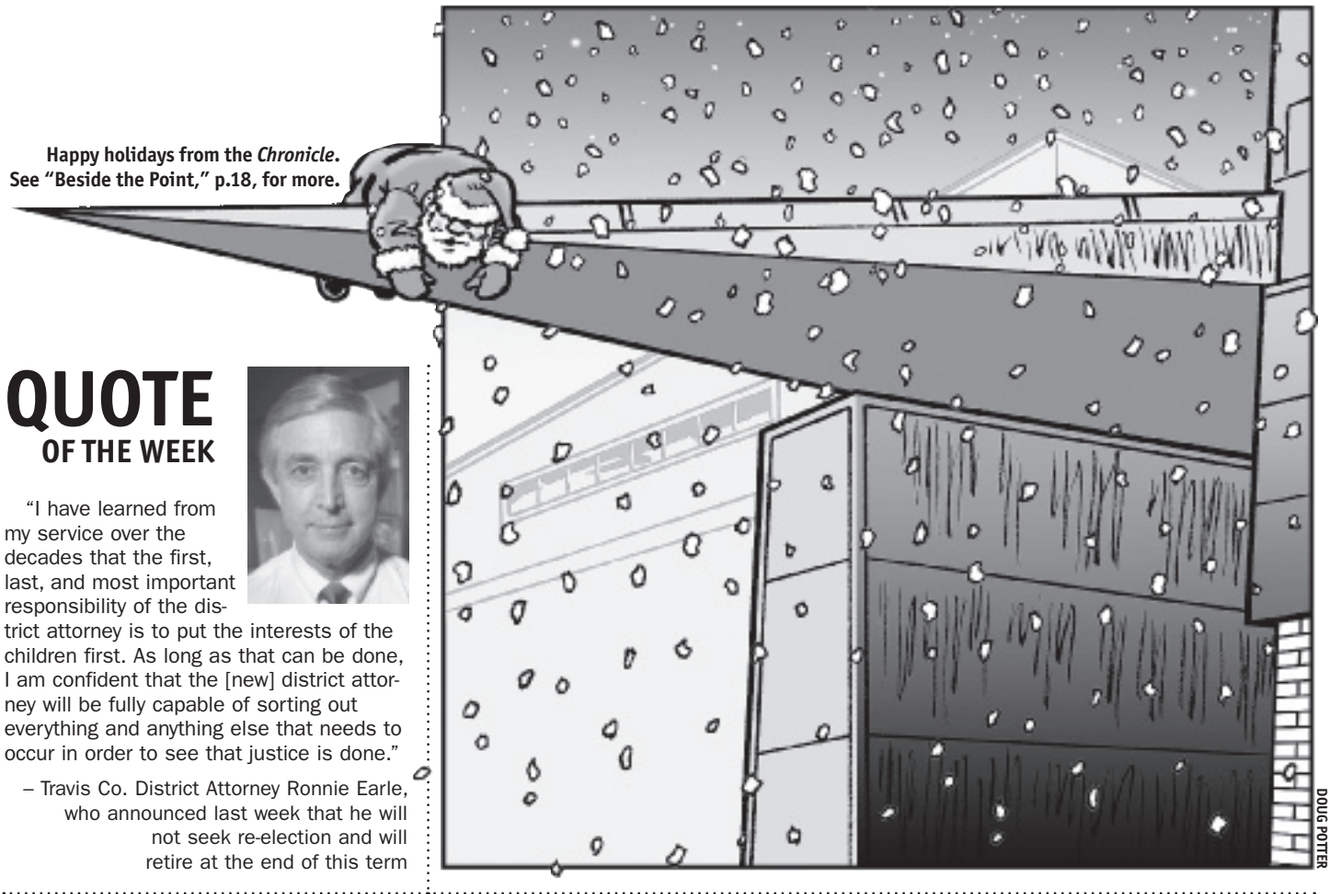


townlaketrail.org

Town Lake Trail Foundation

Buy a commemorative brick for the holidays and become a lasting part of the Trail's history.

4x8=$100, 8x8=$500, 12x12=$1,000



Happy holidays from the *Chronicle*. See "Beside the Point," p.18, for more.

DOUG POTTER

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"I have learned from my service over the decades that the first, last, and most important responsibility of the district attorney is to put the interests of the children first. As long as that can be done, I am confident that the [new] district attorney will be fully capable of sorting out everything and anything else that needs to occur in order to see that justice is done."

– Travis Co. District Attorney Ronnie Earle, who announced last week that he will not seek re-election and will retire at the end of this term

NAKED CITY

After serving as Travis Co. district attorney for 30 years, **Ronnie Earle** announced Dec. 14 that he would not seek re-election next year. Before winning the top prosecutors' spot for the first time in 1977, Earle served as a municipal judge – at 26 he was then the youngest person in Texas to serve in that position – and did a three-year turn in the Texas House. Earle's retirement finally opens the field to a host of contenders and would-be contenders for the job – including several from his staff. Prosecutors Gary Cobb and Rick Reed have both filed as candidates, while prosecutor Mindy Montford and First Assistant County Attorney Randy Leavitt have both said they plan to join the race. Retiring Judge Jeanne Meurer, longtime jurist on the 98th District bench (where, handling countless juvenile cases, she earned a reputation as a tough-love judge whose laserlike stare could scare anyone straight), issued a statement saying she too was weighing whether to run for the spot.

– Jordan Smith

Glen Maxey is still on the offensive in his bid to unseat 16-year Travis Co. Tax Assessor-Collector **Nelda Wells Spears**. His campaign manager, Elliott McFadden, filed a complaint with the county attorney alleging Spears failed to file required personal financial statements for 2001-2003 and filed late in 2006. "The annual filing of personal financial statements by elected officials is the law, and Ms. Spears should know it," McFadden said. The complaint alleges Spears violated Chapter 572 of the Texas Government Code, a class B misdemeanor punishable by up to $10,000 per violation. "Maxey has, once again, demonstrated his ignorance of the applicable law," replied former Travis Co. Judge Bill Aleshire for the Spears camp. "That chapter applies only to state officials, not to any county officials." Aleshire said the Local Government Code governs Spears, with only $100 penalties – plus, the statute of limitations has expired. More importantly, Aleshire said, Spears was surprised to find her reports were not on file, has ordered copies of all her tax returns since 2000, and will make them public. "Now, we challenge Mr. Maxey to do the same. … If Mr. Maxey believes [the public has a right to know], then he won't mind showing who's been paying him since 2000 and how much."

– Lee Nichols

HEADLINES

In a stunning upset, Democrats have claimed yet another seat in the **Texas House**. On Tuesday, **Dan Barrett** defeated Mark Shelton with 52% of the vote in a special election run-off to replace retiring Fort Worth Republican Anna Mowery. The Dems are now only five seats away from a majority.

Despite White House pressure and weaseling from the Democratic leadership, the attempt to expand the **feds' wiretapping surveillance powers** and grant retroactive immunity to telecom companies that had broken laws failed this week, as Sen. Harry Reid – facing a filibuster from Sen. Christopher Dodd and heavy public opposition – postponed the matter until next year.

Despite considerable foot-dragging by the U.S., a new **international agreement to combat climate change** was signed in Bali last week, with hopes it will result in significant efforts to reduce carbon-dioxide emissions – including possible mandatory reductions after the Bush administration is history in 2009.

Former Austin Police Sgt. **Michael Olsen** has hired a new attorney, Tom Stribling, and the city's Civil Service Commission has granted a 60-day continuance in his case, meaning the CSC will reconvene to consider Olsen's appeal to get his job back on Feb. 18. Olsen was fired last month for his actions in the June shooting death of 25-year-old Kevin Brown. *– J.S.*

Capital Metro's **urban commuter rail** project rolled closer to reality this week – on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday nights, the first MetroRail vehicle was tested on the tracks between the U.S. 183/Burnet Road and MoPac/Howard Lane intersections. Also, observers may have seen MetroRail stations going up – the station across Airport Boulevard from Highland Mall has been completed, and the one at Airport and North Lamar is under construction. MetroRail, which will run from Leander, through North and East Austin, and on to the Convention Center, is scheduled to begin operations in fall 2008. *– L.N.*

The Austin Library Commission has recommended **Seaholm** as the preferred site for the city's new $90 million **central library**. The recommendation comes mainly from the commission's desire to see a stand-alone building. If the library were to be located on the site of the soon-to-be-decommissioned Green Power Plant, then the project would likely be folded into a larger multiuse development. Under the original schedule for the bonds passed last November, the central library would be one of the last projects

continued on p.19

POINT AUSTIN

Undue Process

Arbitrator's reinstatement of APD officer strains justice and belief

BY MICHAEL KING

"I ain't gonna lie. I beat the shit out of him, and he fuckin' deserved it. Swinging at me and doing all the stupid shit he was doin'." – Austin Police Department Officer Gary Griffin, addressing his supervisor immediately following Griffin's July 1, 2006, beating of Joseph Cruz at an East Seventh Street bus stop.

It's useful to keep in mind Officer Gary Griffin's remarks concerning his actions on July 1, 2006, when he "beat the shit out of" Joseph Cruz for the crime of falling asleep at a bus stop. The beating, along with Griffin's subsequent commentary, was recorded on the officer's in-car video, and that recording served as the primary evidence cited by interim APD Chief Cathy Ellison when she terminated Griffin the following December for excessive use of force, for dishonesty at the time and afterward, and for bringing "discredit upon himself, the Austin Police Department, and the City of Austin." Ellison's decision was effectively overturned Dec. 3 by arbitration hearing examiner Don B. Hays, who ruled that the department had not successfully proven all its allegations against Griffin and that, moreover, inadequate APD training is partly to blame for the 10-year veteran officer's offense against Cruz. Therefore, ruled Hays, with additional retraining and psychiatric review, Griffin should be returned to the force. Although in qualifying his decision, Hays probably overstepped his up-or-down authority, overruling the arbitrator would have been virtually impossible – and a few days later, Chief Art Acevedo announced that Hays' decision would not be appealed.

We've linked both the video and Hays' lengthy decision to this column online, and readers can decide for themselves if they think either makes any sense. To these eyes, Griffin carried out an entirely unprovoked and undeserved beating against a man half his size and – whatever his previous record – no longer deserves to be a police officer. The arbitrator's effective exoneration of Griffin, moreover, exhibits a strained and tortured logic in concluding that the officer's admittedly excessive use of force was "never proven to be anything more sinister than gross negligence." To Hays, Ellison insufficiently allowed for Griffin's "outstanding record as an honest and reliable police officer, and his honest perceptions on this occasion," in deciding that his actions and his subsequent lying about them, as well as his refusal to acknowledge that he had done anything wrong, merited termination. "Given that attitude," Ellison had concluded, "it is my belief that any discipline other than suspension would not change or correct his behavior."

continued on p.18

Beyond recommending "sensitivity therapy" for Griffin, Hays never addresses Ellison's final judgment, and his decision means that – following actions for which you or I would certainly be liable for felony assault – Gary Griffin is once again a police officer.

Felony Assault

I don't object to the review and arbitration process that in this case delivered a poor decision (in others it has performed well), although I find it amusing that in a state otherwise so hostile to unions, only police officers under union contracts are accorded employment due process the rest of us can only dream of. And I don't claim that on the evidence of this one incident, Officer Griffin is an unredeemable person. In the initial moments, he behaved both thoughtlessly and foolishly – neither waiting for EMS officers to examine the sleeping Cruz nor even ever identifying himself as a police officer – and he was clearly taken by surprise when the sleeping Cruz flailed his arms in an attempt to get away from whoever was disturbing him.

But once surprised, Griffin immediately lost his temper and began beating Cruz with his baton, fist, and knees, even after emergency personnel arrived and attempted to calm Griffin down and separate the two men. (Early on, the video shows, he and another responder have control of Cruz's arms, but Griffin loses one because he's more determined to beat Cruz on the chest with his baton.) After he'd broken Cruz's nose with repeated, undefended punches to his face, Griffin indicated, "All that blood [pouring from Cruz's nose] is from me punching him," even while the firefighters were asking him to stop. The video thoroughly documents that Cruz never "swung" at Griffin nor attempted to "assault" him, although he was initially charged with the latter offense (until the DA's office saw the video), and in disciplinary proceedings, Griffin continued to make that dishonest claim.

"Given that attitude, it is my belief that any discipline other than suspension would not change or correct [Officer Griffin's] behavior."
– Interim Police Chief Cathy Ellison, Dec. 28, 2006

The visibly excessive force Griffin used to beat an uncomprehending Cruz (afterward revealed to be mentally ill) was luckily insufficient to do even greater damage. As Chief Ellison understood, this was not just conduct unbecoming an otherwise reformable police officer; it was an egregious violation of Griffin's fundamental responsibilities to serve and protect the public, and one for which an officer shouldn't get a second chance with a badge and a gun.

It's a damn shame that arbitrator Hays couldn't, or wouldn't, understand that.

Change the Culture

The story will not end here. Griffin will receive psychiatric review and additional training, and one useful outcome may be that in response to the Hays ruling, the department's use-of-force policies may become somewhat more explicit and restrained. (But I don't buy the arbitrator's argument that Griffin might not have been taught the true limits of force; you don't need special "training" to understand that with reinforcements at your side, you don't beat a smaller, defenseless man into submission.) Perhaps indeed Griffin will have learned his lesson, the department will closely monitor his conduct, and the Cruz beating will be an isolated incident.

Cruz and his family have filed a federal lawsuit against Griffin and the APD, and maybe that will bring some redress to them and some institutional reform to Austin and the APD. It would be nice to live in a city and state where police officers are not inevitably the first, and ill-trained, responders to mental-health calls. It would be even better to live in a place where police officers did not receive reflexive allowance to engage in dangerous or even criminal conduct that we would never allow ourselves. ■

BESIDE THE POINT

Now Dash Away! Dash Away! Dash Away, All!

BY WELLS DUNBAR

'Twas a few shopping days until Christmas[1], when City Council adjourned, despite a 128-item agenda we thought would keep them 'til morn.

Especially considering – and this ain't a blessin' –
several hours spent gabbing in executive session.

But when they emerged, it was with such a present:
a new site for **Water Treatment Plant No. 4** – who would've guessed it?

This was followed by a presentation high-toned and not raucous,
from **John Steiner** of the city's Integrity Office.

It still drew plenty of laughs on a subject quite sensitive:
Toby Futrell's declared "Unquestionable Integrity Initiative."

But now – lemme return to earlier that morn,
when council's announcements kept them blathering on.

Said Mayor Pro Tem **Betty Dunkerley**, with some gumption,
she'd bring forth an item addressing Downtown construction.

She'd OK more at night, to cut traffic – so congested!
And maybe **Will Wynn** won't have fits apoplectic.

Jennifer Kim then announced, without hesitation,
plans aiding small businesses to open additional locations.

It'll be helpful to stores looking to expand their borders –
so what if the beneficiaries are campaign supporters?[2]

Then **Brewster McCracken** excitedly – how else? – gushed
that his **parking enterprise** is delayed 'til Jan. 10.
We were crushed.

"It's appropriate we have a full council presentation."
Well, there goes all the joy from my winter vacation.

Then came Item 60, $5 million unceremoniously booted
from **Block 21** to "streetscape and hardscape improvements."

"This money should stay Downtown," declared **Sheryl Cole**,
– a quarter to Waller Creek, half to its river walk,
a quarter to Creek Shoal.

New Downtown attractions – that's why Cole was paid dues
of honor from hoteliers[3] – or was it 'cuz she's a snooze?

Eventually from the dais they arose with great cheer,
BTP's relieved to be certain, that they're gone 'til next year.[4]

And so I'll exclaim – happy holidays! – and leave with this slight:
with City Council adjourned, it will be a good night.

[1] *Thursday, Dec. 13; also encroaching on Chanukah, Kwanzaa, Festivus, and Mitt Romney's inaugural religion of secularism holiday celebration.*
[2] *Kim thanked campaign boosters Steve Simmons (of Amy's Ice Creams) and Paul Carrozza (RunTex) for their help.*
[3] *On Dec. 9, the Austin Hotel & Lodging Association named Cole Council Member of the Year, earning her a bouquet of towels, travel soaps, and ashtrays.*
[4] *Thursday, Jan. 10, with council unwrapping Austin's new city manager the following week, Jan. 17.*

Direct Xmas cards to Rudolph or **wdunbar@austinchronicle.com**.

Best Laptop Repair
We Repair All Brands
PC GURU
We buy broken laptops!
Laptops • Desktops • Networks • Windows
Viruses and Spyware • House Calls
All PC problems solved
4004 N. Lamar 472-8324
2102 S. Lamar 383-0000
www.allpcproblems.com

Trusted Physicians. Real Compassion.
Private Abortion Care
• Surgical Abortion & Abortion Pill
• Sedation for Comfort
• All Gyn Services
• Personal & Supportive
• Flexible Payment Options
DSHS# 7882
AUSTIN WOMEN'S HEALTH CENTER
512-443-2888
austinwomenshealth.com

Donate your car, truck or boat to charity and get $499 or more!*
FREE TOWING
We'll come out and pick it up!
carstrucksandboats.com
It's all for a good cause.
PeopleFund
Helping Hand Home For Children
Meals on Wheels and More
El Buen Samaritano Episcopal Ministry
Austin Habitat for Humanity
Hospice Austin
American Red Cross of Central Texas
alzheimer's association
Any Baby Can
*If eligible under IRS guidelines.
CALL TOLL FREE: 866-398-5995

to be built, possibly to give the Austin Public Library Foundation and the Friends of the Austin Public Library the ability to do some additional fundraising. Council will consider a resolution to designate Green the preferred site on Jan. 10. – *Kimberly Reeves*

Southwest Key Programs, one of the largest nonprofits in Austin, has received a $700,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services to create 71 jobs in East Austin. Southwest Key is opening the 30,000-square-foot **East Austin Community Development Center** early next year, right next to Johnston High. The nonprofit provides juvenile-justice programs, shelters for immigrant children, alternative schools, workforce development, and other programs. The federal grant will provide the capital to create Southwest Key Maintenance, which will be housed at the center. The program will create jobs and provide job training for low-income individuals, while providing maintenance, janitorial, and landscaping services at a competitive price. The center is at 6002 Jain Ln. in East Austin. – *Michael May*

The Austin Independent School District board of trustees has approved the **2008-2009 school calendar**. The new calendar does not differ substantially from the current school year. School will begin a couple of days earlier, on Monday, Aug. 25; the fall semester will end a few days earlier, on Dec. 18; classes will resume on Jan. 6, 2009, giving families a few more vacation days over the winter break; and school will end on June 3, 2009. The fall semester will have 78 school days, and the spring semester will have 97 days. – *M.M.*

BEYOND CITY LIMITS

In a legal battle that must have conservatives in knots, the **strip joints** lost the first round of their fight against the **tax collectors**. On Tuesday, 53rd District Judge Scott Jenkins declined to grant a temporary injunction to prevent the state comptroller from collecting the "titty tax" – a $5-per-head surcharge to be paid by businesses that provide live nude entertainment and allow customers to drink alcohol. Jenkins said the plaintiffs – the Texas Entertainment Association, which represents adult cabarets around the state, and Amarillo-based bar-management firm Karpod Inc. – had failed to prove imminent irreparable harm. Jenkins said he would take under advisement a motion to dismiss and a jurisdiction plea from the comptroller's office. Peter Nolan, an attorney for the Texas Entertainment Association, said that while this request for extraordinary relief had failed, the association will seek a permanent injunction.
– *Richard Whittaker*

In a blow to opponents of Speaker **Tom Craddick**, Attorney General **Greg Abbott** has finally issued his opinion on the powers of the speaker, and Craddick said it backed his position "on every disputed issue." Rep. Jim Keffer requested the opinion on June 18, but Abbott waited until 9pm last Friday to issue it. Twenty-two of its 31 pages tackled whether the speaker is an officer of the state. Abbott argued that he is and could be removed by impeachment, a step that would require Senate approval of a House vote about House business. Abbott refused to give definitive answers to two questions: if or how the House could replace an ejected speaker and whether the speaker could simply refuse to recognize House members. He deferred, saying an answer would violate the separation of powers. Craddick, who was accused last session of claiming absolute power, immediately interpreted this as affirming his "position as rules arbiter." Noting Craddick and Abbott share many donors, House Democratic Caucus Chair Rep. Jim Dunnam, D-Waco, condemned the opinion and said, "Abbott threw a lifeline to his ally." – *R.W.*

The record low unemployment rate in Texas means most employers in the state will get a break on their taxes next year. The Texas Workforce Commission voted last week to lower the **unemployment-tax rate** to 0.22% in 2008, from 0.29% in 2007. This tax feeds the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund, which provides unemployment benefits to workers who have been laid off. The fund now has a surplus, thanks to low unemployment and the fact that the bond-debt used to seed the fund in 2003 was paid off early, saving employers $270 million in taxes. – *M.M.*

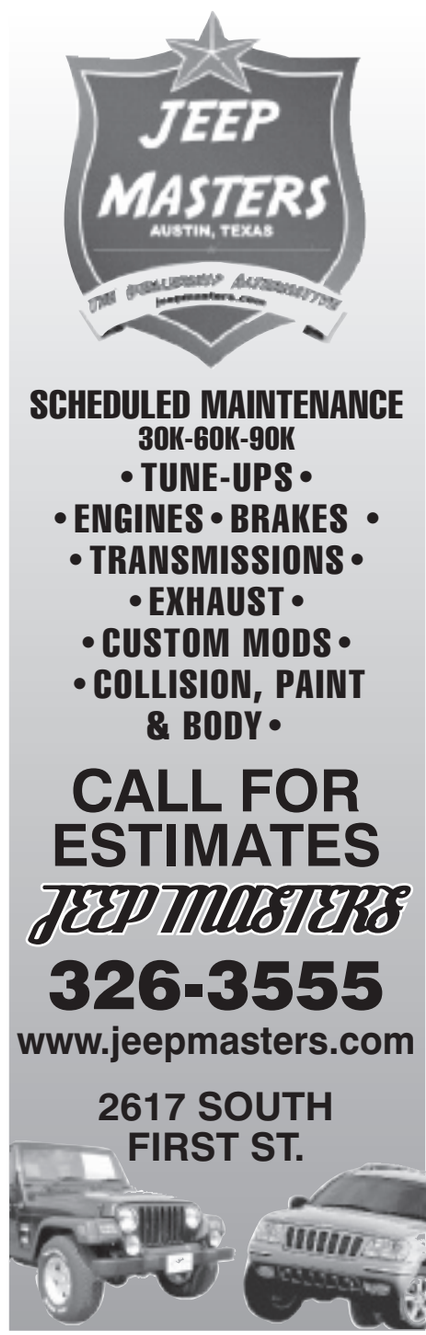
In other economic news, BusinessWeek.com recently released findings on **housing affordability** that are a study in contrasts. Ranking as the nation's most expensive housing market is Beverly Hills, with an average home price of $2.21 million, which is no surprise. More intriguing is that Killeen, Texas, ranks as the most affordable market in the U.S., with a "similar home" selling for $136,725 there. The study examines 317 U.S. markets, using a single-family home with 2,220 square feet, four bedrooms, 2½ baths, a family room, and two-car garage "within a market that is typical for corporate middle-management transferees" as a benchmark. The similarity ends there, however. "You won't find … Rodeo Drive here [in Killeen] – but you will find community events such as fairs, concerts, and high school football games … and a pervasive sense of patriotism," according to the study. The Austin/Round Rock area also rates well, with a median home price of $186,000. In fact, the study bills the South as the place to find comfort from high prices. Regardless, some local builders are reacting with guarded pessimism to the mounting national malaise – Centex Homes recently nixed a huge subdivision on the Pearson family ranch off Parmer Lane, for instance. – *Patricia J. Ruland*

The **Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board** is considering giving degree-granting powers to a college that teaches the Bible as literal scientific truth. On Dec. 14, the certification advisory committee considered an application from the **Institute for Creation Research**, a California-based fundamentalist school with a branch in Dallas, for a certificate of authority to grant a master's in science education. The certificate would last two years and is an interim step to full accreditation. The school rejects Darwinism and argues that global warming provides proof for the biblical flood. It already offers the master's and a professional-certificate program for the Creationist Worldview via the Internet. According to the Institute for Creation Research website, the course is intended to help teachers "relate science and [science] education concepts as revealed in scripture." The board will receive final recommendations in January. – *R.W.*

Ending lengthy speculation, local attorney Brian Thompson told a crowd of supporters at Vivo restaurant on Tuesday that he will challenge Texas Rep. Dawnna Dukes in March's Democratic primary election for District 46. Thompson, who was appointed to the Austin Human Rights Commission in 2006, said he would file with the Travis Co. Democratic Party on Wednesday morning. The East Austin resident and Alabama-born graduate of the UT-Austin School of Law attacked his opponent for her close connections to House Speaker Tom Craddick and Republican donors. "She's running out of one of the strongest Democratic districts in Texas, but she's taking advantage of that," Thompson said. "She thinks she can get away with anything and win, just because she's a Democrat, and I'm here to show her that's not true." – *R.W.*

Sen. **Kirk Watson**, D-Austin, chair of the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Policy Board, has sent a letter to the **Texas Department of Transportation** questioning the timing on state budget cuts that likely will trickle down to Central Texas soon. Only about two months ago, the region approved short-term road projects. At the time, no one at the state agency indicated funding cuts would be imminent, Watson wrote. "It was the understanding of the CAMPO board that, in addition to the funding acquired by the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority (CTRMA), the Department had committed to substantial funding by means of various categories through the term of the [Transportation Improvement Program]," Watson wrote. "This commitment was stated in several public meetings, as well as the October meeting. It was understood to be in the range of $500 to $700 million, and it was a critical and determinative factor in the CAMPO's board decision to approve the Department's requested projects." TxDOT declined to comment specifically on Watson's questions, saying it's working on a response to a number of questions Watson posed. – *K.R.*

If any native Austinite has a right to bitch about how much cooler things were before Austin's development boom, it's the **Jollyville Salamander**. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service issued a determination this week that the salamander warrants protection under the Endangered Species Act but said the agency must defer actually listing it as endangered in order to assist other species at greater risk. Salamanders inhabit springs, spring runs, and caves within the Jollyville Plateau area of the Edwards Aquifer in northern Travis and southern Williamson counties. They're primarily threatened by water-quality degradation from urban development runoff in the form of storm water entering their habitat. Sediment can clog a salamander's external gills, impairing its ability to avoid predators, find food, and locate mates. Were the salamander listed as endangered, any entity harming it could be prosecuted and developers would have to obtain a permit from the Fish & Wildlife Service prior to initiating a project within salamander habitat. Until then, protection efforts could include technical assistance and competitive matching grants for landowners that participate in Candidate Conservation Agreements. The service determination was based on a petition filed by the Save Our Springs Alliance and included 10-year salamander population and water-quality data from the city of Austin. – *Daniel Mottola*



Appeals Court Rules Against WilCo Constable

The fight continues

On Nov. 28, the **3rd Court of Appeals** in Austin ruled against Precinct 1 Constable **Gary Griffin**, upholding District Judge **Joseph Clawson**'s 2006 decision to grant Williamson Co.'s motion for summary judgment in the constable's lawsuit against the county. In 2005 Griffin sued the Commissioners Court on constitutional grounds, when it cut his budget to one-fourth its size two months after adoption of the annual budget. The county abruptly decided to move the money to the county sheriff's office, in a dispute over Griffin's handling of mental-health calls. According to the 3rd Court's ruling, "The budget transfer was authorized … and did not improperly intrude into the Constable's sphere of authority."

But Griffin's attorney, former Travis Co. Judge **Bill Aleshire**, filed a motion for a rehearing on Dec. 11 and insists, "This case is not over." Aleshire's motion argues the court erred because the lawsuit involves considerable dispute over material fact and therefore does not meet the legal standard for summary judgment. "Commissioners Court's and Constable Griffin's evidence were in conflict," said Aleshire last week. "We produced evidence that the county budgets each personnel slot – but the [appeal court's] opinion assumed that salaries were budgeted lump-sum. That is important because, if the commissioners had to create new salary slots in the sheriff's budget, then they exceeded their authority." The opinion also states that Griffin's deputies did not perform core constable duties – although the county never made that argument – and therefore, the court ruled, the deputies could be transferred.

Asked about the ruling, former county Judge John Doerfler confirmed that Griffin's deputies in fact performed both core and non-core duties. Indeed, as Aleshire pointed out, the Commissioners Court had made its initial decision to cut Griffin's budget because he had briefly ordered his deputies to focus only on "core duties" (serving criminal warrants and civil papers) while de-emphasizing mental-health calls, before quickly rescinding that order.

In a press release, county officials praised the ruling. The county has been "vindicated," Precinct 1 Commissioner **Lisa Birkman** said, for doing what was right and ensuring residents have the services they need. Birkman added that the media had falsely painted the case as a "conflict of personalities" between Griffin and herself.

Certainly the dispute has grown bitter and increasingly personal. Former Williamson Co. District Attorney **Ed Walsh**, now a defense attorney, says he has had to represent Griffin in a number of criminal investigations pursued by the county against Griffin over the years, although none have been sustained. Recently, the state attorney general's office found no merit to District Attorney **John Bradley**'s allegation that Griffin and Aleshire had unlawfully introduced 911 transcripts into the court record. More mysteriously, the county's criminal database cryptically records that Griffin was "arrested" by the sheriff's office and "convicted" of class A misdemeanor official oppression (the record is undated) but contains no arrest or court record of any kind – apparently because there is none. (A notation on a separate page states that the case had been "Disposed: Without Prosecution" on Feb. 6, 2002.)

Griffin says he has never been arrested, and Walsh said simply, "There's no explanation for it." Asked if the county has something personal against him, Griffin replied: "A blind man could see it's personal. If it's not, what is it?"

Maybe it's politics as usual in Williamson Co., including the connections underlying the 3rd Court's opinion. First, there's the obligatory county official family tie – 3rd Court Justice **David Puryear**'s son Geoffrey works as an attorney under County Attorney **Jana Duty**. Duty's assistant, **Vickie Vickers**, coordinated a Dec. 13 Georgetown fundraiser for 3rd Court Chief Justice **Ken Law**, held only a couple of weeks after the opinion was issued (a fundraiser announcement dated Nov. 28 – the same day as the court's ruling – listed Duty and Sheriff **James Wilson** as committee members). Law also reportedly sandwiched in appearances at the Republican Women's Club and the local GOP's Christmas shindig right after the opinion's release. The timing alone suggests that Law, to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest, might have considered recusing himself from the court's decision, and perhaps Puryear as well.

Aleshire says that along with his motion for a rehearing, he will file a simultaneous petition for review with the Texas Supreme Court. The former Travis Co. judge believes large issues are at stake. "If this opinion stands, it will undermine the independence of the county officials who are elected to be loyal to the voters, not to the Boss Hoggs on the Commissioners Court. Worse yet, because the summary judgment standard was ignored, the opinion, if followed in other cases, would deny parties their right to a full trial when the evidence is in dispute." – *Patricia J. Ruland*

JOHN ANDERSON
Constable Gary Griffin

DUKES FACING CRITICISM FOR MISSING COMMITTEE MEETING

State Rep. **Dawnna Dukes**, D-Austin, is facing heavy criticism over claims she missed a vital committee meeting to take an out-of-state junket.

Dukes is the only Democratic House member on the **Joint Medicaid Reform Legislative Oversight Committee**. But she was absent when the eight-member body held its first interim meeting Dec. 6. Scandal erupted two days later when **Matt Glazer**, editor-in-chief of Texas politics news blog **Burnt Orange Report**, was vacationing at **Bally's Las Vegas Hotel & Casino**. He was surprised to see Dukes there playing the slots. He took a photo, quickly posted it on his website, and said she had "skipped the hearing for a junket to Las Vegas."

JOHN ANDERSON
Dawnna Dukes

Dukes spokesman **Colin Strother** called the criticism "a fabrication, and the posters know it." While the committee meeting was on Thursday, the photo was actually taken on Saturday, Dec. 8. Dukes was in Las Vegas because she had broken from her return trip from a **National Conference of State Legislatures** convention in La Jolla, Calif.

Explaining why Dukes was in California watching former White House Chief of Staff **Leon Panetta** talk about the "evolving state-federal partnership" rather than in Austin trying to fix Medicaid, Strother said it was an unfortunate but unavoidable timetabling mishap. The committee chair, Sen. **Jane Nelson**, R-Lewisville, had scheduled the meeting without the normal process of polling members to see if they would be available. Both Dukes and Sen. **Judith Zaffirini**, D-Laredo, had prior commitments, so they missed the meeting. The NCSL confirmed Dukes attended the convention. Strother said he asked Glazer to correct the report and said, "Her weekend is hers to do with as she pleases, just like any other Texan."

But Glazer questioned her priorities and added, "She is the sole House Democrat on the Medicaid Committee, and she wasn't there." – *Richard Whittaker*

Justice and Worker Safety

Labor leaders and legislators used **International Human Rights Day** (Dec. 10) to draw attention to a **Texas Supreme Court** decision from this summer, which they say threatens worker safety and the ability of workers to sue when injured by negligent employers. In the case of ***Entergy v. Summers***, the all-Republican court ruled the owner of a business can also be considered the general contractor for work done on the business property, and if that business owner has purchased a certain type of workers' compensation insurance, then temporary employees brought on-site are prevented from suing for injuries by Texas' workers' comp laws. **Texas labor law** says workers' comp benefits are the "exclusive remedy" for work-related injuries incurred by covered employees. Labor officials and lawmakers said the relevant portion of the Labor Code, Section 406.123, was not intended to define premises owners as general contractors.

The plaintiff, **John Summers**, argued that when he was injured while performing construction and maintenance work at Sabine Station plant of **Entergy Gulf States Inc.**, his direct employer was **International Maintenance Corp.**, the company hired to perform the job. Entergy argued that since it was the company that hired IMC, it was the general contractor employing Summers and that he was covered by their policy, and thus they could not be sued. In the Aug. 31 opinion, Justice **Don Willett** wrote that the court had looked at the plain language of the law and "the governing Labor Code definitions of general contractor and subcontractor do not forbid a premises owner from also being a general contractor."

On Dec. 10, **Becky Moeller**, president of the **Texas AFL-CIO**, called the portion of the law on which the court relied, "an obscure, 15-year-old nonsubstantive recodification of the Labor Code," and said, "The Texas Supreme Court has gouged a giant hole in the legal protections for Texas workers by giving large-business owners a technical loophole to escape the consequences of their own wrongdoing."

Until the Texas Supreme Court waltzed into this issue, the Texas Legislature, even at the height of the tort-reform craze, had declined to go this far in closing the courthouse doors to injured workers, despite repeated efforts by the anti-lawsuit lobby. Sen. **Kirk Watson** of Austin echoed that, saying, "The Court reached a result that the Legislature has rejected over and over again. The Legislature has avoided reducing and has, instead, worked to assure worker protections and also make sure employers keep a commitment to safety."

"Non-substantive re-codifications of statutes are a constitutionally mandated duty of the Legislature … specifically meant to NOT change the intent of law," said Brownsville Sen. **Eddie Lucio** in a statement. "In the Entergy decision, the Texas Supreme Court has violated the separation of powers in this state using judicial activism to write law."

Moeller said the AFL-CIO will call for a rehearing and reversal of the decision and will participate in any legislative hearings called to discuss the case. – *Lee Nichols*

COUNCIL PASSES ORDINANCE TO LOWER RACE COSTS

Races have seen their costs skyrocket over the past couple of years due to the city's tightening of **traffic-control requirements**, prompting many event organizers to consider calling it quits. About 145 running events will take place in Austin this year; most of them benefit local charities.

The Austin **City Council** has taken steps to control those costs. A city ordinance passed by council last Thursday will charge 5K and 10K races flat fees for traffic-control plans and barricading. It also mandates the hiring of 13 city employees to process traffic plans and to set traffic cones and barricades, eliminating the need for events to hire private engineers and rental companies. "The intent is to reduce costs for the nonprofits so that they have more money left over for their causes," says **Leon Barba**, assistant director of the city **Watershed Protection and Development Review Department**.

To block off streets for an event in the city of Austin, organizers must submit a traffic-control plan designed by an engineer to the city's Right of Way Management, which falls under the Watershed Protection Department. Plans can cost $1,000 to $3,000. Then the events hire a rental company to place cones and traffic barricades along the course.

The new ordinance directs the Right of Way office to offer predetermined race courses with traffic-control plans for $500. Custom courses and plans will cost $1,500. The city will charge $500 per kilometer for cones and barricade rental, both setup and removal. Under the ordinance, traffic-control fees for a 5K race on a preset course will run $3,500, saving 5Ks $3,000 to $5,000, according to city estimates. "I'm excited for the nonprofits, because I keep hearing, 'This is our last year [to put on a race],' from a lot of them," says **Paul Carrozza**, owner of **RunTex** and self-described fitness philanthropist. "I really applaud [Assistant City Manager] **Rudy Garza**. He absolutely heard the problem and created a viable solution."

Over the past couple of years, the Right of Way Management has upped – in some cases quadrupled – the number of cones and barricades it requires on courses. Race organizers argue the city's requirements are excessive. For instance, Go for the Gold 10K and Fiesta 5K, held together in March, saw traffic-control costs soar from $1,900 in 2006 to $20,000 in 2007, Carrozza says.

The ordinance appropriates $700,000 for the new employees; the funds are expected to be recouped in fees. Barba says he expects the ordinance to be implemented by March.

– Laurel Chesky

JOHN ANDERSON

RunTex's Paul Carrozza

HAPPENINGS

For more events, see Community Listings, p.76.

THURSDAY 20

CHARTER REVISION COMMITTEE explores options for single-member districts in Austin. *5:30pm. LCRA Hancock Building, 3700 Lake Austin Blvd., 974-7593. Free.* **www.ci.austin.tx.us/charter**.

FRIDAY 21

PEOPLE UNITED presents Sasha Abramsky, author of *Conned: How Millions Went to Prison, Lost the Vote, and Helped Send George W. Bush to the White House. 1pm. KOOP Radio 91.7FM.* **www.koop.org**.

ALTERNATIVE RADIO presents activist Angela Davis, author of *Abolition Democracy: Beyond Empire, Prisons, and Torture. 2pm. KOOP Radio 91.7FM.*

SATURDAY 22

YELLERDAWG/SATURDAY SAGES DEMOCRATS WEEKLY MEETING *Saturdays, 11am. Tres Amigos, 1801 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 327-1776.* **bmcafee@austin.rr.com**.

ONGOING

AUSTIN FIREFIGHTERS 2008 WOMEN'S CALENDAR Benefits the Austin Firefighters' Fund. *441-7572. $15.* **www.austinfirefighterscalendar.com**.

CITY OF AUSTIN SEEKS INPUT ON WEBSITE DESIGN With its sights set on "a new era of open government," the city of Austin is redesigning all of its websites and needs help. Take the Web usage survey at **www.austingo.org**. *Deadline: Fri., Jan. 4.*

FREE COUNSELING FOR VETERANS The Samaritan Counseling Center now offers free counseling to Afghanistan and Iraq veterans and their loved ones. *5425 Burnet Rd. Ste. A, 451-7337.* **www.samaritan-center.org**.

MLK DAY OF SERVICE: CALL FOR VOLUNTEER PROJECTS Pitch in on this annual East Austin volunteer day by suggesting a project or joining someone else's. The event is *Sat., Jan. 19, 9am-3pm. 225-0360.* **rene.carlin@unitedwaycapitalarea.org, www.handsoncentraltexas.org**.

SHERIFF'S CITIZENS' ACADEMY is recruiting the next batch of students for the 13-week class kicking off *Feb. 12*. Students will get a behind-the-scenes look at the Travis Co. Sheriff's Office. Call or e-mail for details. *Tuesdays, 6:45-10pm. 854-4989.* **vincente.galloway@co.travis.tx.us**.

WHO DESERVES A MADI? Nominate Austin African-Americans who advocate for the community in any area. *Deadline: Dec. 31.* **www.austinmadis.com**.

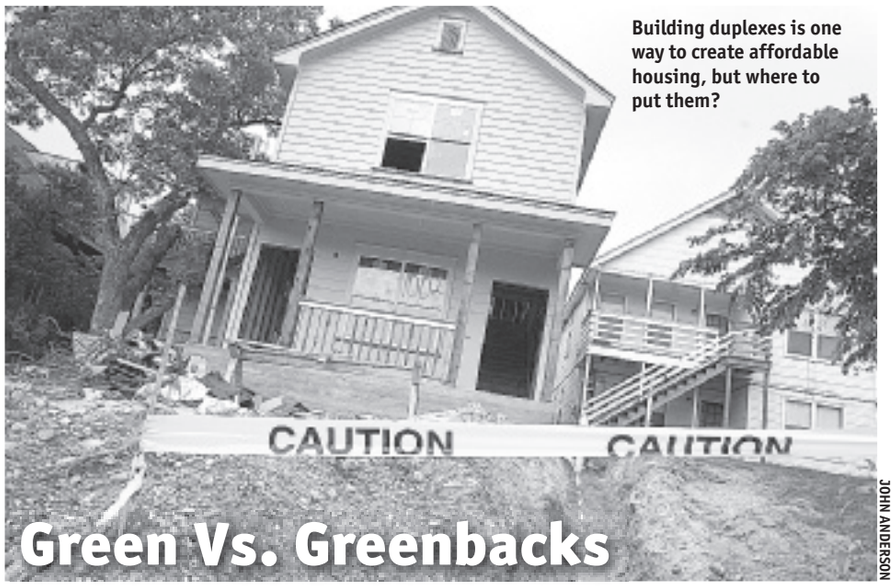
PARKING ENTERPRISE

On a semirelated note, one item that got bumped from last Thursday's council agenda: a **Parking Enterprise Fund Resolution**. If approved, a new **Austin Parking Enterprise** will invest in garages available to the public; enterprise revenues will provide long-term funding for transit, trails, sidewalks, and bike paths. State and federal dollars could help fund construction. The enterprise would own the **Seaholm Garage**; however, its profits go first to the developer under the master development agreement. The big money would come from new underground parking on the nearby to-be-redeveloped **Green Water Treatment Plant** site. Other structured parking opportunities named in the resolution: Downtown, South Congress, transit-oriented development zones, the Domain-area "second downtown," and along rail lines.

Council authorized the adaptive reuse of Seaholm in 1996 to create "a unique and exceptional cultural facility in downtown Austin." Many cool cultural proposals were floated in a public conversation about Seaholm; meanwhile, once-discussed tenants like the **Austin Children's Museum** and the **Austin Museum of Art** still need permanent homes. When the economy tanked in 2001, however, Seaholm became something of a civic white elephant, weighted down with daunting costs for redevelopment, retrofitting, operations, and a projected $30 million in streetscape infrastructure improvements. Three years after hiring a development team, plans show a mix of retail, condos, hotel, and offices – hardly "unique and exceptional" in today's Downtown. But at this point, all involved simply want to get the project into construction – before the development cycle dolphins downward yet again.

One vocal project critic has been **Andrew Clements**, former chair of the Urban Transportation Commission. He believes the redevelopment plans will be "an unfortunate violation of the long-term public good, instead favoring the short-term financial benefit of the development team." Clements' focus is preserving **mass-transit options**, particularly existing Union Pacific rail track. The 2004 council resolution seeking a Seaholm redevelopment team specifically cited "mass transit use options" and "a possible passenger rail/transit link to central downtown and other points." Clements and others fear those options have been needlessly lost in accommodating the developer.

But Council Member **Brewster McCracken** said the debate amounts to a "philosophical disagreement" over which rail technology is best now for a Downtown circulator – heavy rail, ultralight rail, or a streetcar. A choice on the transit configuration was made after a study, jointly funded with **Capitol Metro**, which explored five different visions for how the Seaholm rail juncture could work. McCracken favors light rail, or a modern streetcar; he said the heavy rail line from San Antonio still could link up to it at Seaholm. Mayor **Will Wynn** has called for a passenger-rail referendum in November 2008, to provide short-hop transit around the central city. Now in planning is an inclusive city-led public forum on **alternate technologies and routes**, seeking (voter) input on whether the line should run all the way to Seaholm and/or the Long Center, across Lady Bird Lake. – *K.G.*



Building duplexes is one way to create affordable housing, but where to put them?

JOHN ANDERSON

Green Vs. Greenbacks

What about affordable housing?

Will the redevelopment of **Green Water Treatment Plant** Downtown include an aggressive push by City Council and staff to get affordable housing on-site? Or would the affordable-housing monies generated by the site's redevelopment (40% of new property taxes generated) be better spent on the near Eastside, where the dollar goes much further? That's a hot debate shaping up at council and in the affordable-housing community.

"It seems like council has already made a decision not to put affordable housing at Green, without any public dialogue and discussion about this really important issue," said affordable-housing advocate **Heather Way**. "This is our last chance to provide affordable or moderately priced housing on city-owned land Downtown. I'm concerned that the city is not going to pursue creative ways to get affordability on-site at Green."

Way also expressed concerns that council might be essentially deciding the issue already, without required public notice; recently council has been discussing Green real estate issues in private executive session. The **Texas Open Meetings Act** requires public notice and transparency; however, city attorney **Thomas Nuckols** said a real estate exception allows such a use of executive session. The courts and attorney general have interpreted the exception generously, to preserve a city's ability to negotiate an advantageous deal with the private sector, Nuckols said: "It's like in football, you guard your playbook. You lose your advantage if the other team knows your plays." Executive sessions are taped and later made public.

Affordable-housing advocates are putting together a detailed request of council for Green, Way said. Of council members interviewed, only **Jennifer Kim** said she strongly believes the affordable housing should be on-site. **Mike Martinez** and **Sheryl Cole** each said they prefer to use the funding near Downtown on the Eastside, perhaps in the Homestead Preservation District. "But if there is enough revenue stream [from private development at Green] to buy down some of the housing, we're open to that conversation," Martinez said.

At its last session of 2007, City Council approved on first reading the rezoning of the Seaholm site to DMU-CURE (Downtown Mixed-Use, Central Urban Redevelopment). That allows building heights of 120 feet; anticipated variances could grant heights up to 400 feet. Council also approved a resolution to move on rezoning the Green site to DMU-CURE; **Austin Energy** tracts between Seaholm and Green are likely to follow. Having these increased entitlements in place greatly enhances the land's value to private developers, for mixed-use projects.

"We have to be good stewards of the public interest, by getting as much as possible in negotiations for city-owned land," Cole said. "But we also have to balance that with the public's right to know what we're doing." – *Katherine Gregor*

Strategy for Saving Low-Performing High Schools

The **Austin Independent School District** is drafting a strategic response to performance issues at its high school campuses, an effort that may or may not be too late to save **Johnston High School**.

At a special-called meeting Monday night, AISD's top academic officers outlined what the data, crunched and tweaked in the right way, can tell the district about its challenges, strengths, and needs.

Here are some conclusions from those numbers: The experience of teachers on a campus and better attendance rates are highly correlated to better test scores. Being a low-income student is not a sentence to failure; some campuses are doing significantly better than others in teaching this student population. And the district continues to struggle with statistics such as the disproportionate number of African-American students who are the subject of disciplinary referrals when compared to their white counterparts.

A lot of this information has been well known to the district and even intuitive to the community. What the academic team, led by Associate Superintendent **Ann Smisko** and Chief Academic Officer **Darlene Westbrook**, is stressing, however, is that you can drill down into this data to pull out intervention strategies on campuses. For too long, test scores and school data have been difficult to interpret and, even more important, difficult to act upon at the campus level. To know Latino students on your high school campus are failing is one thing, but to know specifically that a Hispanic student on your campus is failing the math portion of the **Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills test** possibly because of sporadic attendance during the spring semester of his freshman year is another thing. This kind of data, when used properly, can both drive interventions down to the student level and provide benchmarks for progress.

Out of this data, the Austin school district is crafting high school redesign projects. The toughest challenges – **Reagan**, **Travis**, **Johnston**, and **LBJ** – came first. They will be followed, next year, with plans for the district's west-side high schools. Campus strategies will be tailored to the needs of the individual campus.

Johnston is in its fourth year of low performance under the state's accountability system. Education Commissioner **Robert Scott** could choose to close the campus at the end of this year. **Paul Saldaña**, a key community leader providing support to the flagging Johnston High, said the problems there should have been apparent to district leaders years ago and needed interventions both in the feeder pattern and with the challenges associated with the district's burgeoning population of **English as a second language** students. The challenges at Johnston right now were years in the making, Saldaña said. "It's unfortunate that it's come down to the 11th hour to try to address the issue," he said. "We should have taken measures years ago before we got to this situation."

Johnston High School students at a pep rally

KIMBERLY REEVES

Part of AISD's intervention strategy has been to bring in consultants to revamp the district's ESL curriculum. The district also has issued strategic reports to address challenges in both the elementary and middle schools. Intervention needs to happen in AISD, Saldaña said, and it needs to happen quickly. Flagging test scores at a number of Austin high schools could put the district in the crosshairs of the accountability system, which continues to ratchet up standards.

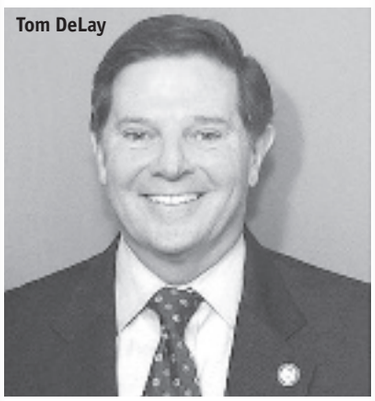
"This year you have Johnston," Saldaña said. "Next year you could have Travis or Reagan, maybe even LBJ or McCallum. All of those schools are in the same situation as we are. They could be the next Johnston High School." – *Kimberly Reeves*

@CHRONIC

REPUBLICANS RESURRECT THE HAMMER

It's no secret that Texas Democrats are going to use the specter of **Tom DeLay** in the next election. What is surprising is that Texas Republicans have started swinging the Hammer again.

In his response to Attorney General **Greg Abbott**'s opinion on the powers of House Speaker **Tom Craddick**, House Democratic Caucus chair Rep. **Jim Dunnam**, D-Waco, called it "what anyone would expect from the legacy of Tom DeLay politics."



Tom DeLay

The Republican Party of Texas quickly put out a press release attacking Dunnam. "Historically," spokesman **Hans Klingler** wrote, "Texas voters will remember it was Dunnam who led a coalition of his liberal cohorts embarrassingly across the border to hide out in Oklahoma in 2003 instead of doing the taxpayers' business."

Historically, Texas voters may remember the Democrats took off to **Ardmore**, to break quorum over DeLay's redistricting plan. There were also unanswered questions over DeLay's connection to the Department of Homeland Security being used to hunt the **Killer Ds** down. At the time, Rep. **Pat Haggerty**, R-El Paso, gave a warning to his fellow Republicans: "When this goes down in history, [the Democrats] will be the heroes, and we'll be a bunch of schmucks." – *Richard Whittaker*

Posted Tuesday, Dec. 18.

Have yourself a Merry Puppy Christmas!

GROOVY DOG BAKERY

HUGE DISCOUNTS DEC. 26-31

Westgate Shopping Center
4477 S. Lamar Blvd.
891•7333

THIS HOLIDAY, GIVE THE GIFT OF RELAXATION

HOLIDAY HARMONY SPA PACKAGE
SAUNA TIME
ONE HOUR SWEDISH MASSAGE WITH AROMATHERAPY
TRANQUILITY BODY WRAP WITH OILS OF LAVENDER, ORANGE, CEDARWOOD AND FRANKINCENSE
FULL BODY DRY BRUSH EXFOLIATION
HOT HERBAL STEAM TOWEL TREATMENT
WARM SALT FOOT AND CALF SCRUB
ENDING WITH HOT MULLING SPICE TEA
TAKE HOME GIFT BAG
$169 (APPROXIMATELY 2 HOURS)

ESSENTIAL HOLIDAY SKINCARE SPA PACKAGE
ONE HOUR CUSTOM FACIAL
GLYCOLIC OR SALICYLIC PEEL
LAVENDER SCALP TREATMENT
EMOLLIENT EYE AND LIP TREATMENT
WARM COCOA BUTTER HAND MASSAGE
ENDING WITH HOT DETOX TEA
TAKE HOME GIFT BAG
$149 (APPROXIMATELY 1.5 HOURS)

1811 W. 35TH ST
VIVA DAY SPA

Harry Potter 20Q
supplies limited

Dear Whole Earth Friend,

I want to tell you about the BEST toy we've seen in our 37 years in business. The winner of several industry awards,

20Q

this is still our Toy of the Year playing the old 20 questions game and guesses what *you* are thinking. *REALLY!*

I've spent hours playing with this entertaining gadget. It's so good it's spooky!

Jack Jones
Founder and Toy Buyer

Whole Earth Provision Co.
2410 San Antonio St., 478-1577 (FREE parking w/purchase @ UTLot)
1014 N. Lamar, 476-1414, and S. Lamar @ WESTGATE, 899-0992
www.WholeEarthProvision.com

We'll help you PEACE It Together!

Bead It.

FREE piece of Jewelry with every purchase of $50 or more!

2058 S. Lamar (@ Oltorf) 512.693.2323 BeadItAustin.com

THE SCORE Sports Blog
austinchronicle.com/sports
Your Base on Balls

Some gifts are more fun to unwrap

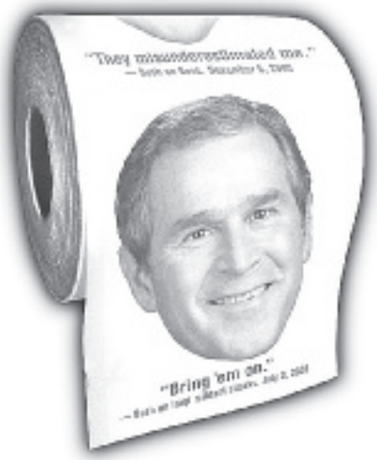
TABU Lingerie
Novelties & More
www.tabutoys.com

South Lamar & Ben White
183 & Burnet next to Chili's

Gift Guide

POLITICS GIFT GUIDE PART II

More creative shopping suggestions from the *Chronicle* News staff



George W. Bush Toilet Paper ($9.99)
I know what you're thinking: "G.W.T.P.? Too good to be true. Must be a fictional gift idea." No siree; it's as real as the stuff it's made for, and is available locally at Waterloo Records, or check out **www.prankplace.com**, where you'll also find squares dedicated to the mugs of Hillary Clinton, Dick Cheney, Rosie O'Donnell, and Rush Limbaugh. If you like the concept but want more options, take a look at **www.jeremyinc.com**, where you can order custom-made rolls. Careful who you send Christmas-card photos out to. Never know where they might end up. – *Cheryl Smith*

Ghostcross Mall (not for sale)
For the scrappy little neighborhood association in your life, we recommend you purchase the entire city block bounded by Anderson Lane, Burnet Road, and Northcross Drive and install a pedestrian-friendly, transit-oriented development that won't draw a lot of traffic from outside the neighborhood and houses local businesses rather than big-box bullies. – *Lee Nichols*

Tom Craddick Brand Ev-R-Lasting Gavel
What do you get the House speaker in your life who just won't quit? This handy administrative hammer can bang, bang, bang all day, drowning out any note of dissent from the floor. Choice of colors: Comes in La La La Not Listening Lilac and My House, My Rules Maroon. Also available in disposable Deputy Speaker model. – *Richard Whittaker*

The Austin Scandal Shrinker
(by A.S.S. Associates Inc.)
Whether it's a nepotistic hiring, Convention Center shenanigans, a sweetheart contract setting up the (since-shuttered) Austin City Store, or a good old-fashioned conflict of interest, there's been no shortage of scandal at City Hall this year – so what better gift for compromised city officials than the Austin Scandal Shrinker? It downplays unseemly revelations with any one of 25 tsk-tsking phrases, all suitable for *Statesman* publication – alternately pleading ignorance, circling the wagons, or imploring, "Don't make this a political issue." Still catching flak? Crank the A.S.S. to "Extreme Obfuscation," and watch as the civic conversation turns to inane political-identity matters – like loan terms for moving a popular Mexican restaurant or the merits of a nationally despised big-box retailer opening a new location – then chuckle as they suck the air out of your controversy. Perfect for the politico that has everything … and Austin's informed voting populace. – *Wells Dunbar*

ILLUSTRATIONS BY DOUG POTTER

U.S.-Mexico Border Wall Snow Globe (price yet to be assessed)
"Crystal ball" is likely a more apt term for this dark orb, which not only snows but sleets mud when you shake it. Give it to your favorite border-wall supporter as a warning. We mailed one to John Cornyn. Happy holidays, Senator. – *C.S.*

IBIZ Districts

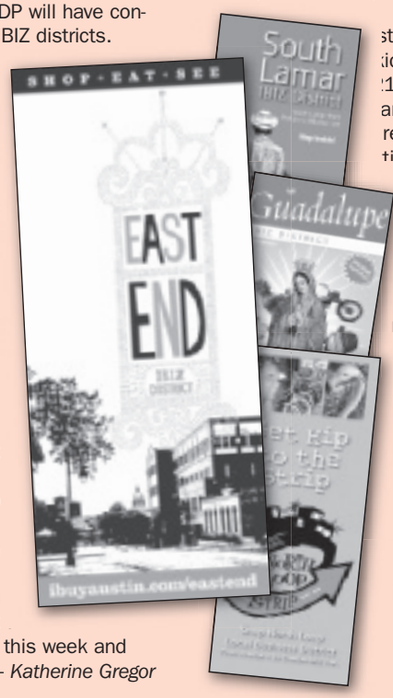
Voting local with holiday dollars

If we value the neighborhood character contributed by locally owned stores and cafes – the independents that keep Austin weird – then we should remember to throw some holiday spending their way this season. That's the message from the **Austin Independent Business Alliance**, which notes, "Most people embrace the idea of distinctive businesses with local character, but often forget that the survival of these businesses depends on your patronage." (Mea culpa: Who among us has not shopped the mall or online this December?)

At the start of the holiday season, AIBA completed installation of colorful pole banners for **four designated IBIZ districts** – strips rich in fun and funky independent businesses. Brochures with maps for each district are available at participating retailers; they're also online at IBuyAustin.com. Grant funding for the banners, brochures, and other joint marketing efforts came from the **Small Business Development Program** of the city of Austin. By the end of this fiscal year, SBDP will have contributed $54,000 toward the IBIZ districts. (Always nice to see Economic Growth and Redevelopment Services doing something for our struggling homegrowns – as opposed to Domain subsidies for Tiffany's et al.)

To a larger extent with independents, what's spent here stays here, AIBA says. According to a prior **economic-impact study** co-sponsored by the association, if each Travis Co. household spent $100 of its holiday budget with locally owned merchants rather than at chain stores, about $10 million more would stay in our local economy.

So while finishing up the holiday shopping and eating, patronize a small, locally owned Austin business – and make a slim-profit retailer's day. Within the IBIZ districts, we did a little Secret Santa reconnaissance this week and turned up these ideas. – *Katherine Gregor*



SOUTH LAMAR IBIZ DISTRICT
(South Lamar, from Hether to Bluebonnet)
One to try: 2110 S. Lamar

For that hard-to-buy-for man, why not a gift certificate to the hip and manly **Birds Barbershop**? An indulgent old-fashioned straight razor shave is $25; a rock-star haircut is $25, a Mohawk or buzz cut just $15. **Aviary** offers eclectic furnishings and housewares, such as a child's china dish set with a cool Sputnik motif ($49) and other modern Scandinavian delights. A calendar benefits a local nonprofit for $15.99: Emancipet or the Breast Cancer Resource Center. Neighboring 2110 strip shops include **Legendary Beads**, the **Waxing Studio**, **Nails Pure & Natural** (gift certificates online), **Upstairs/Downstairs** (metro men's apparel; check out the eco-friendly designer wallets), and **365 Days, 365 Ways** (sexy stuff from PG to XXX).

On your way, ladies, stop in at **Bitchin' Threads**, 1030 S. Lamar (by the Alamo Drafthouse), and let proprietor Grace Faulkner find you that perfect dressy retro/eclectic ensemble for New Year's Eve.

GUADALUPE IBIZ DISTRICT
(Guadalupe, from 29th to 32nd)
A don't-miss holiday tradition: shopping at **Toy Joy**, 29th & Guadalupe, for the cool and knowing toys, gizmos, trinkets, and candy that give grownups a second-childhood thrill. Affordable stocking stuffers (also available from their online Web store) include Mozart and Jane Austen action figures ($8.95), sushi playing cards ($4.95), and Nihilist Chewing Gum ($1.25). Plus plenty of neat toys for real children not yet of drinking age. Other worthwhile stops within a short stroll: **Antone's Record Shop**, **Breed & Co.**, **I Luv Video** and **Vulcan Video**, **Buffalo Exchange**, and **Wheatsville Co-op** for granola foodie treats.

NORTH LOOP STRIP IBIZ DISTRICT
(North Loop, from Chesterfield Avenue to Martin/Duval Street)
Intriguing stocking stuffers for adults and kids abound at **Earth Art**, 2111 W. North Loop – most handmade items purchased directly from craftspeople and artisans globally. Delightful is the vast array of one-of-a-kind Indonesian kites, ranging from a fierce cat ($28) to a giant dragon ($125) – great as toys, folk art, or decor. At **Forbidden Fruit**, 108 E. North Loop, five chocolatic body paints and brush ($18) come stacked in special Christmas packaging, or send a message to your Bubba with *Pleasuring Her First*). A gift certificate to **MonkeyWrench Books** would please that pesky anti-materialist revolutionary on the list. Then browse a half-dozen vintage shops concentrated along North Loop/East 53rd between Avenues F and H. **Room Service Vintage** and others offer swell retro-chic glassware sets, jewelry and clothes, toys, cowboy boots, and other artifacts from the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s.

EAST END IBIZ DISTRICT
(East 11th Street, from Branch to Angelina)
Retail hasn't yet blossomed on this Eastside strip, but plenty of eateries invite holiday dining and gift-certificate purchases. Pick up the traditional Christmas Eve pizza from **East Side Pies**, 1401 Rosewood (limited delivery area); the Guiche has spinach, roasted garlic, green chilies, sun-dried tomatoes, and goat cheese. Or get down at **Gene's New Orleans Style Poboys and Deli**, **Ben's Longbranch BBQ**, or **Victory Grill**. In the upscale 1100 block, a celebratory meal awaits at **Ms. B's** or **Primizie** – the Italian cafe and wine bar offers complete catering and event coordination, too. Don't miss the artful as well as warm and cozy **Blue Dahlia Bistro**, 1115 E. 11th. Hearty winter dinner specials there include venison osso buco and gnocchi with wild boar. – *K.G.*

LABORATORY COMPUTERS.COM

GAMING COMPUTERS-CUSTOM BUILT

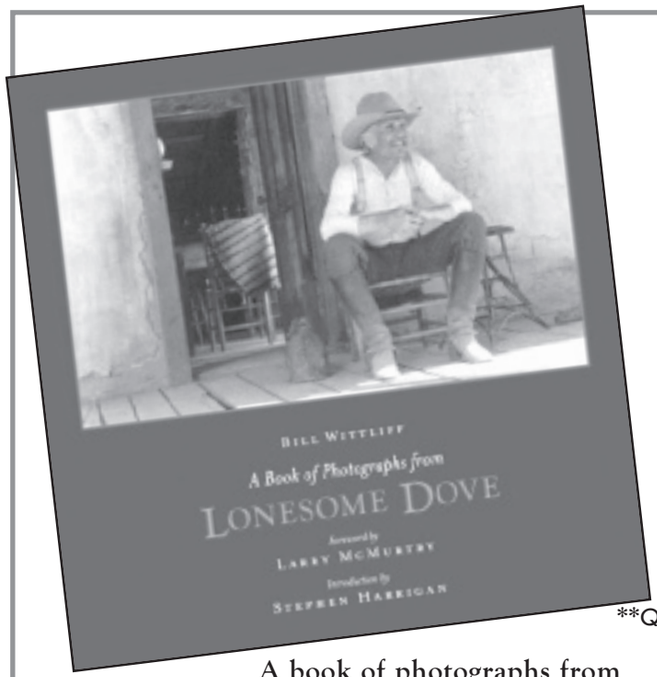
AMD ATHLON X2 4200+
DUALCORE 4200+ CPU
1GIG RAM
8500 GT 256MB VIDEO
250GIG HARD DRIVE
16X DVDRW
$499

INTEL CORE2 DUO 6850
INTEL CORE2 DUO 6850
2GIG RAM
8500 GTS 256MB VIDEO
250GIG HARD DRIVE
16X DVDRW
$799

WE FIX COMPUTERS FOR $39

FLAT RATE COMPUTER REPAIR WITH NO HOURLY CHARGE.
INCLUDES VIRUS REMOVAL, INSTALLS, AND REPAIRS.
PRICE ONLY GOOD WITH THIS COUPON. DOES NOT INCLUDE PARTS.

CALL 419-7422 MON-SAT 10-6 5400 N LAMAR
WWW. LABORATORYCOMPUTERS .COM



**Quantities limited.

A book of photographs from
LONESOME DOVE
autographed by
BILL WITTLIFF
renowned fine art photographer, award winning screen writer and executive producer.

Whole Earth Provision Company
2410 San Antonio Street, 478-1577 (Free parking w/purchase at UT Lot)
1014 North Lamar, 476-1414
South Lamar at Westgate, 899-0992

Give The Gift Of...

VANS "OFF THE WALL"®

HOLIDAY SALE

Now Until December 24th!

$20 BONUS BUCKS

Spend $50 or more between 12/7 - 12/24
and get $20 off your next $50 purchase

Spend $50 or more at any Vans store between December 7-24 to get a discount card for $20 off your purchase of $50 or more between January 11-27, 2008. Discount applies to Vans brand merchandise only at Vans US retail locations and is applied prior to sales tax. Please see store for complete details.

VANS "OFF THE WALL" Original Since 1966

LOCAL VANS STORES:

BARTON CREEK SQUARE MALL
PH: 512.306.0738

LAKELINE MALL
PH: 512.219.0153

©07 VANS, INC.
Waffle outsole is a registered trademark of Vans, Inc.

Return to ACC's Room 221 Mercury or mystery?

One of the most dangerous properties of mercury is its persistence. Once it is introduced into an environmental context – such as the food chain – it tends to remain there.

The opposing sides in a years-old fight at **Austin Community College** would certainly agree on that persistence, albeit for different reasons. Some current and former employees worry the toxic metal still pollutes a classroom that has been the subject of legal wrangling over the past decade; ACC administrators no doubt feel it has persisted as a public-relations problem for much too long.

Just a few days before the school is scheduled to begin renovating a former chemistry lab where mercury was known to have been spilled, as well as a classroom below the lab, a former math instructor who once sued ACC on claims of **mercury poisoning** said she has new evidence the school hasn't been honest or sufficiently thorough in its remediation efforts. Simultaneously, administrators in charge of the cleanup reject the instructor's charges and have been trying to reassure faculty and staff the classrooms will be completely safe once they are reoccupied.

The controversy concerns Room 221 and some rooms on the floor above it at ACC's **Rio Grande campus**. Room 221 made headlines earlier this decade when **Kevin Carmody**, the late environmental reporter for the *Austin American-Statesman*, did a series of reports on allegations by math professor **Corinne Irwin** that she had been poisoned by exposure to mercury contamination after working for years in Room 221. Irwin alleges mercury leaked from the lab above, where broken thermometers and other mercury sources weren't properly cleaned up in the days before its toxicity was fully understood.

ACC officials have consistently denied that the serious health problems Irwin suffered in the 1990s were caused by her work environment and backed up their position with several air-quality tests performed after Carmody's story in 2001 and again in 2002 and 2003. The tests found little evidence of mercury beyond normal atmospheric conditions and well within the level the federal government recognizes as safe for a daily work environment. ACC's lawyers also hired a toxicologist to test Irwin, and he concluded she hadn't been poisoned – a judgment which directly contradicted those of Irwin's doctors. Irwin eventually reached a legal settlement with the college that includes a confidentiality agreement.

Room 221's saga continued in 2003, when six other employees sued ACC (*Bryant v. Fonte*) when they got sick while working there, after the room had been converted to a theatre scene shop. The suit was dismissed in 2004 without prejudice by Judge **Sam Sparks**; the plaintiffs said they could no longer afford to pursue it, but ACC attorneys say the plaintiffs simply couldn't make their case.

Now, after years of Room 221 being sealed on the order of Sparks, ACC is renovating it so that it may again be used as a drama scene shop. ACC says it will be doing a full asbestos and lead abatement, plus yet more "precautionary" mercury tests. That has Irwin – with the backing of the public-interest group **Public Citizen** – upset, because she fears ACC might be exposing workers to harm. **Mark Goodrich**, a maintenance worker active in the ACC faculty and staff union, was recently threatened with termination for repeatedly questioning the administration's cleanup efforts. Goodrich has filed a First Amendment lawsuit.

JOHN ANDERSON

The focus of the concerns is that, while the labs above Room 221 received mercury-abatement cleaning, 221 did not. The reason, says ACC, is there was no mercury to clean up – repeated tests showed little or no mercury in air samples in the room. However, Irwin says some ACC employees – whose identities are unknown to her and who were apparently acting without the consent of ACC administration – somehow obtained more air and dust samples shortly before Thanksgiving. Irwin had **Ron McMahan** – an environmental engineer who served as the scientific witness in *Bryant v. Fonte* – submit the samples to a lab for testing, and he says mercury was found in every one.

On Monday, administrators held a meeting with some faculty and staffers on the cleanup efforts, and union reps and others present were satisfied with the answers provided. After the meeting, the *Chronicle* asked **Rebecca Cole**, ACC's director of Environmental Health, Safety, and Insurance, about Irwin's claims, but Cole said that with no knowledge of the nature of the sample collection or testing procedures, she has no way to respond. She also questioned whether the levels of mercury were above levels known to be dangerous. As of this writing, no documentation of McMahan's analysis has been provided to the *Chronicle*.

Irwin also disputes a claim by ACC President **Stephen Kinslow** that the room was thoroughly cleaned in 2005 – photos anonymously delivered to her house last month appear to show Room 221 a disheveled mess as recently as this fall. Cole said Irwin is mistaken about what the photos show – the room was cleaned, she said, and then work on the chemistry lab's plumbing began this year in preparation for the renovation. The photos show exposed pipes in the ceiling.

"As opposed to simply remodeling, it's our hope that they'll do testing and, if necessary, abatement in both the second- and third-floor rooms," said **Tom "Smitty" Smith** of Public Citizen. "It's pretty clear that there's enough evidence to indicate that [those who have] worked in 221 have had significant mercury-related health impacts."

The person most concerned about whether the room has been properly cleaned is **W.T. Bryant**, the theatre instructor who was the lead plaintiff in *Bryant v. Fonte*, who will be asked to reoccupy Room 221 after renovation. Bryant says while working in the room, he was experiencing signs of early onset osteoarthritis, Alzheimer's, and migraine headaches, conditions he says have greatly diminished in the five years he's been out of 221. "I have lots of opinions – whether they're printable or not is another story," Bryant said. Asked if he is willing to return to work in the room, he said, "As long as they can sufficiently prove that the room has been properly remediated and cleaned. … They started off saying [mercury levels were] zero, then they said yeah, there was minute or minuscule amounts that weren't hazardous," and then the testing for *Bryant v. Fonte* showed mercury in the dust particulates in the room. Bryant has not been involved in Irwin and Public Citizen's new efforts to pressure ACC.

"My bent has always been and always will be to provide a clean, safe working environment for the students and faculty," Bryant said. "That's all I've ever asked for." – *Lee Nichols*

HUGE
CLEARANCE
SALE

octane 201 WEST 2ND STREET, AUSTIN, TEXAS | 512.482.9733

Oat Willie's
Christmas
Headquarters!
Your one-stop shoppe for:
Tobacco products!
Jewelry! T-Shirts! Toys!
Bedspreads! Ladies Clothing!
And much, much more!
1931 East Oltorf 448-3313 * 617 West 29th Street 482-0630

CHRONICLE Gift Pages

Capitol City Comedy Club

20 tickets for $64.95 + tax!

...just in time for the holidays!

Comedy is good for the soul and now comes in bulk!

call 467-2333
or buy online at
www.capcitycomedy.com

Wish Lists 2008

Compiled by *The Austin Chronicle*

Help those in need this season!

Check it out online at austinchronicle.com

White Crane Herbal Medicine

20% off selected items Dec. 1-24

Chinese Herbs, Asian Arts, Feng Shui Items, Books, Music and More

2700 W. Anderson Ln.
323-6720
1902 S. Congress
693-4372

Blue Elephant

Give the gift of style. Boutique, Apothecary, & more...

Great gift ideas from Marc by marc, Bumble & bumble, Bond #9, and Loccitane. Complimentary gift wrapping w/purchase.

38th & Lamar
In the Central Market shopping center
512-371-3259
www.shopblueelephant.com

Avant Salons & Spa

- **Gift Card Giveaway** DEC: Receive a $10 bonus gift certificate for every $100 gift card purchased online or in-store
- **Aveda Gift Sets** Give gifts that warm a heart and help heal the earth
- **December 13, 14, 15** Pure Privilege **Double Points** and **15% off AVEDA**

Downtown
318 Colorado
472-6357

Gateway
9901 Capitol of Tx. Hwy.
502-8268
www.AvantSalon.com

Matt's El Rancho

Matt's Gift Cards Are The Perfect Tasty Texas Stocking Stuffer!

Austin Style Tex Mex & Custom Catering Since 1952

2613 South Lamar
462-9333
mattselrancho.com
closed Tuesday

Austin Children's Museum Store

Shop for the Holidays at your local toy store! Free Gift Wrap!

Educational Toys, Games, Art Supplies, Stocking Stuffers

201 Colorado Street
www.austinkids.org

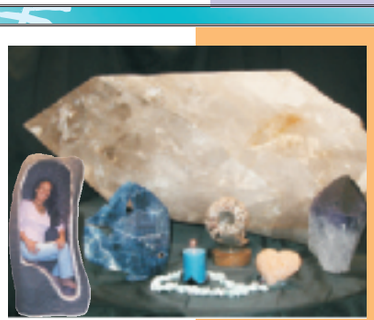
Viva Day Spa

Full Service Day Spa

This year give the gift of relaxation.

Gift Certificates Available

300-2256
1811 W 35th St.
www.vivadayspa.com



Nature's Treasures

Come discover a hidden world of treasures

Specialty gift items, jewelry and fossils!
naturestreasurestx.com

1100 E. 5th 472-5015
(open 7 days a week)
2307 Kramer 833-7760
4300 S. IH35 Georgetown
512-864-7319
All inside TOPS warehouse

Yoga Jewelry & Clothes

$99 Unlimited Yoga
(Three-month commitment required)

"A Family Yoga Center and Unique Boutique" From Prenatal to Xtraining Gift certificates available.

2415 Exposition Blvd.
Suites A & B
512-542-3334
austinkulayoga.com

To be a part of these gift pages, call 454-5766

CHRONICLE Gift Pages

3 Graces

Skincare & Spa

Gift certificates are the best gift to give & to get!

6101 Balcones Dr. Ste. 100
(off 2222)
512-453-7000
www.3gracesspa.com

Twin Liquors

Share the Holiday Spirit

Visit one of our 53 neighborhood locations and pick up a gift catalog, or visit us online. Delivery available.

www.twinliquors.com

Quack's 43rd St. Bakery

Featuring: Holiday-decorated Cookies & Cupcakes, Pies, Cakes
**Actual cookies in picture*

Hyde Park
411 E. 43rd St.
@ Duval
453-3399
www.quackquacks.com

Franzetti Jewelers

Pull a diamond out of your Santa hat!

3707 Kerbey Lane
512.450.1121
franzettijewelers.com

Shoe Boxes

DANSKO, NAOT, CLARKS, MERRELL – Shoes Galore!

Gift certificates available.
Trendy West Coast fashions at affordable prices. Over 7,000 sq. ft. of shopping bliss.

2438 W. Anderson Ln.
(across from Northcross Mall)
512-323-0554
shoeboxesaustin.com

Pretty In Ink

Permanent Cosmetics & Eyelash Extensions

Give her what she's been talking about!

•Gift Certificates Avaialable

7617 Rockwood Ln. #312
Molly @ 826-6559
http://web.mac.com/pretty.in.ink

The Arabic Bazaar

Gifts, Clothing & Home Furnishings from Syria, Egypt & Morrocco

ARABIC CHRISTMAS BAZAAR
Sun. Dec. 2, 9, 16 & 23 11AM-6PM
Bellydance Shows•Music
Food•Henna Tattoos
FREE ADMISSION
& STOREWIDE DISCOUNTS

5013 Duval St. 533-9227
wmdproductions.com

Mr. Nice Guys

Featuring Locally Blown Glass, Heady Glass and Shirts

- *Incense Candles*
- *Jars/Mags/Scales*
- *SO.A.P. Products*
- *Best Prices & Selection*
- *Friendly Service*

Independently Owned & Operated.
In the Real South Austin.
7811 S. 1st, Ste. 101
444-0001

Bark 'n Purr PET CENTER

Bark 'n Purr

Pet Center

We have the perfect gift for your furry friend! Sweaters, jackets, toys, healthy treats & more! Stop by & see why we were voted the best of Austin

4604 Burnet Road
(1 block N of 45th. St.)
512-452-3883
www.barknpurr.com

Alien Scooters

Ultra Fun, Ultra Powerful, Zero Emissions, all Electric Bikes!

Get a $100 Rebate from Austin Energy!
See our Store Specials on Scooters for the Holiday!

1122 S. Lamar
512-447-4220
www.alienscooters.com

To be a part of these gift pages, call 454-5766

Pangaea

Boutique Shopping at Affordable Prices

Mug $8 • Bracelet $12 • Elephants $3, $7 & $10 Gift Certificates Available

2712B Guadalupe
472-3533
pangaeatx.com

EarthArt

Visit Our New Location Next to Epoch Coffee

Beautiful Art, Jewelry, Clothing, Gifts, and Handicrafts from the Global Community

AUSTIN
211 N. Loop 53rd St.
512-693-9400
Holiday Hours:
Mon-Sat 10-9, Sun10-7

BRYAN
209 S. Main St.
979-779-8208

Cafe Monet

Paint Your Own Pottery & Mosaic Studio

Personalized Gifts are Priceless!

Hand-painted gifts are more meaningful. Locally owned. Since 2000.

Westgate Center
512-892-3200
www.cafemonet.org

Furr Factor

Canine Emporium

Offering super hip dog accessories & necessities for your favorite dog & dog lover!

GIFT CERTIFICATES, HOLIDAY ITEMS, STOCKING STUFFERS, ORGANIC FOOD & TREATS, & MUCH MORE!

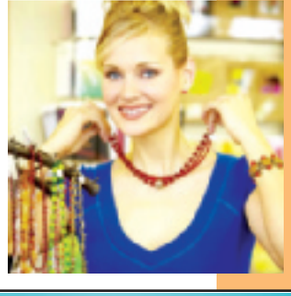
2210 S. 1st
Between Oltorf & Live Oak
512-502-5750
www.thefurrfactor.com

Master Gohring's Tai Chi & Kung Fu

Free Lesson with this ad.

Reduce Stress and Give Yourself the Gift of Greater Discipline in 2008 at Master Gohring's

6611 Airport Blvd.
Austin, Texas 78752
www.MasterGohring.com
512-422-4245
512-879-7553



St. Vincent de Paul

- **Vintage/Retro/Western wear!**
- **Boots/Hats/Accessories!**
- **Furniture/Kitchenware**
- **Unique, One-of-the-Kind Gifts**

You can do all your Holiday shopping at one place! Don't forget to donate for those in need!

1327 South Congress
442-5652
Mon.-Sat. 9:30-5pm
Open late every first Thursday!

Eclectic

Furniture & Great Gifts for the Holidays

M-S 10-6 Sun 12-5
Stop In Next Time You're Stuck In Lamar Traffic

700 N. Lamar
477-1816

Imagine Natural Arts

Home Decor & Accessories

Seashell Wooden Arts
13729 Research Blvd.
Suite 670
Austin, TX 78750
(512)219-7888

Mon-Sat 10a-9p
Sun 10a-6p
Imagine_Natural_
arts@yahoo.com

Sea of Beads

Everything For the Beader

Including Gift Cards.
Now carrying Delicas.

Beads, Supplies, Classes, Parties, Gifts & Giftcards.

2438 W. Anderson Ln.
Burnet Rd. & W. Anderson
533-9090
Open 7 Days a Week

Aero Garden™

Brite Ideas

Hydroponics & Organics

Grow your own herbs, vegetables and flowers right on your kitchen counter top without soil.

4201 S. Congress, Ste. 317
512-444-2100
1-888-GRO PROS
bihydro.com

Atomic City

Largest Selection of John Fluevog Shoes

Shoes & Gifts

1700 San Antonio
477-0293
Call for Holiday Hours

Cheapo

Gift Certificates Available!

KGSR Broadcast CDs Too

477.4499
10th & Lamar
open til midnight
www.cheapotexas.com

To be a part of these gift pages, call 454-5766

Wish List

Give 'til it helps: Part 2

Dear Austin,

We invited local nonprofits to send us lists of all the things they need to be able to serve our community with the impact to which we are accustomed. As always, we have edited these lists as space dictates, and we encourage you to call your intended benefactor(s) for the details on what specific kinds/brands/sizes of things are needed (especially with regard to tech specs on computer and other electronic systems). Here's a big hint: They always need your cash and love (i.e., volunteer hours).

So go to it, dear Austin. Go share thine ample booty, thine plentiful excess, and show these folks how much we appreciate their place in our community, their big hearts, and the good they do all year long.

– Kate X Messer; list compiled by X, Kathryn O'Shields, and Meghan Ruth Speakerman

ADAPT OF TEXAS
Conference tables (8-feet long)
Computer/programming needs
General office supplies
1640-A E. Second #100, 442-0252. **www.adaptoftexas.org**

AMERICAN RED CROSS OF CENTRAL TEXAS
Color printer (new or used, high-volume)
$25 gas gift cards (for client use)
Storage space in Travis Co.
19-inch television (new or used, with built-in DVD player)
Six Prentice Hall *Nurse's Drug Guide 2007*
Two Merck *Manual of Diagnosis and Therapy*
Commercial-grade generator
Laundry detergent
Pro bono Web hosting
T-shirts and printing
30 5-gallon water jugs
2218 Pershing, 928-4271.
www.centex.redcross.org

ART FROM THE STREETS
Jerry's Art-o-Rama gift certificate
Storage space for art (secure, climate-controlled, at least 500 square feet)
Graphic artist (postcards, calendar, etc.)
Grant writer
Art books
Austin Resource Center for the Homeless, 500 E. Seventh, 305-4100. **www.artfromthestreets.com**

THE AUSTIN ACADEMY
Digital camera (5 pixel or higher)
Copy paper
Pens and pencils
Marketing/graphics/website design
Grant writing
16 conference-room chairs
40 adult backpacks
1640-B E. Second, 326-8655.
www.austinacademy.org

AUSTIN GERMAN SHEPHERD RESCUE
Gift cards to local pet stores
Use of a storage unit
Advertising sponsor
Dog toys
Crates
PO Box 339, Austin 78653, 413-0589.
www.austingermanshepherdrescue.org

AUSTIN GROUPS FOR THE ELDERLY
Adaptive eating utensils for clients with arthritis
Catered Mexican lunch for 40
Gift cards (HEB, Target)
Small bottles of Elmer's glue
White butcher paper
Costume jewelry and nail polish
Shower chairs and tub-transfer benches
Adult diapers (L, XL) and baby wipes
Carpet for the second floor
Handyman services
Wheelchairs
Coffee
3710 Cedar #2, 451-4611.
www.ageofaustin.org

CAMELOT CARE
Great families (traditional and nontraditional) who wish to foster
Foster parents for foster children
Gift cards (Target, Office Depot)
Tablecloth with our name and logo on it
New fax machine
Three new office chairs
Marketing display
1524 S. I-35 #218, 444-0900.
www.camelotcommunitycare.org

EQUAL JUSTICE CENTER
Expert digital-video file-editing for workers' testimonies
Graphic designer (brochures and workers' rights education materials)
Photocopier in good condition
Digital video camera
510 S. Congress #206, 784-0683.
www.equaljusticecenter.org

EQUALITY TEXAS
Photoshop software
Portable screen
Office chairs
Conference table
Trifold presentation board
PO Box 2340, Austin, 78768, 474-5475. **www.equalitytexas.org**

FLORENCE'S COMFORT HOUSE
Single bed with firm mattress
Bedding and blankets
Clothing
Pampers
Art supplies
Gift cards (HEB, Target)
Children's books and toys
515 Kemp, 385-8672.
www.florencescomforthouse.org

GIRLS ROCK CAMP AUSTIN
Musical equipment of all kinds: basses, amps, keyboards, drum gear, mics, guitars, mixers, faders, picks, cables, PAs, etc.
Video/camera equipment
Portable CD players
Airline miles
Goods/services donated for silent auction
Office supplies for campers
Art supplies: small and regular-sized scissors, black Sharpies of all thicknesses, glue sticks, magazines (w/ female musicians), stickers, white typing paper, saddle and regular staplers, photocopying services, color markers, highlighters, girl and lady zines for zine library, silkscreen supplies, new plain T-shirts for printing on (child and adult sizes)
Food
809-7799.
www.girlsrockcampaustin.com

GIRLSTART TECH CENTER
Gift cards (HEB, Hobby Lobby, Target, Academy Sports + Outdoors, Starbucks)
Bottled water
Flash drives
1400 W. Anderson, 916-4775.
www.girlstart.org

GREENBRIAR SCHOOL/ MARSALOM
Alternative energy components (solar panels, windmills, micro-hydro generators, inverters, charge controllers)
Musical instruments (electric keyboard, amplifiers, speakers, wind instruments)
A new bridge (materials and engineering consultation)
55-gallon drums
Tractor
Computers
1411 Old Sayers Rd., Bastrop 512/281-2661.

HILL COUNTRY CONSERVANCY
Heavy wooden or antique conference table with 6-8 chairs
New phone system with 10 phone stations
Canon EOS Digital Rebel XTi camera
Canon EF-S 10-22mm f/3.5-4.5 USM SLR lens for EOS digital SLR
Office desk and chair
Art-deco lamps
ArcGIS 9.2
PO Box 163125, Austin, 78716, 328-2481.
www.hillcountryconservancy.org

INSIDE BOOKS PROJECT
Gift cards for photocopy service
Donations to cover the cost of postage
English and English-Spanish dictionaries
African-American studies books
Large packing envelopes
Clear packing tape
GED study books
827 W. 12th, 647-4803.
www.insidebooksproject.com

KOOP 91.7FM
Lint-free computer-cleaning cloths for cleaning CDs
Empty, clean spray bottles (no toxic chemicals)
Dish towels in good condition
50% isopropyl alcohol
Vacuum cleaner
PA system
3823 Airport Ste. B, 472-1369.
www.koop.org

NARAL PRO CHOICE TEXAS
Gift certificates to local businesses
Laptop computer
Digital camera
DVD player
Postage
PO Box 684602, Austin, 78745, 462-1661. **www.prochoicetexas.org**

PLANNED PARENTHOOD
Children's books for clinic waiting room
Spanish magazines and coffeetable books
Clear plastic storage containers for educational materials
Two to four outdoor benches for courtyard
201 E. Ben White Bldg. B, 275-0171 x106.
www.ppaustin.org

SOUTHWEST KEY PROGRAM INC.
Books and videos in Spanish for children and young adults
Commercial dishwasher
Used laptops or tablet PCs
Eight 72-inch-round tables
Digital video camera
Vouchers for movies and entertainment
Gift cards (Sam's, Home Depot, HEB, Target, etc.)
Class set of *Returnable Girl* by Pamela Lowell
Refrigerator with water dispenser
Clear plastic geometric volume set
Gas grill for cookouts
Desktop computers
Portable building
Two scanners
Van
Rulers
Protractors
Meter sticks
Outdoor benches
Outdoor playscape
6002 Jain, 462-2181.
www.swkey.org

SUN DRAGON MARTIAL ARTS AND SELF DEFENSE
Folding or stacking chairs
Water cooler or water fountain
Compact fluorescent lightbulbs
Small copier and cartridges
Vacuum cleaner
Fax machine
Filing cabinet
Printing services
203 E. Riverside, 416-9735.
www.sundragon.org

TEXAS FREEDOM NETWORK
Sturdy, front-yard picnic table
PO Box 1624, Austin, 78767, 322-0545. **www.tfn.org**

THUNDERING PAWS ANIMAL SANCTUARY
Purina Lamb & Rice dog food
Organic Timothy Hay for bunnies
Any premium dry cat food (except Iams)
Cans of Fancy Feast (fish flavors)
Any kind of mild, environmentally safe, general cleaning product, including laundry detergent
Industrial mop and mop bucket
Large wagon for hauling heavy things
Revolution flea preventative (cats and dogs)
Large storage shed
Washable cat beds
PetSmart gift cards
Scoopable kitty litter
Large litter boxes
PO Box 1555, Dripping Springs, 78620, 512/402-9725.
www.thunderingpaws.org

TOP DRAWER
PA system
Vacuum cleaner
4902 Burnet Rd., 454-5161.
www.topdrawerthrift.org

TRAVIS AUDUBON SOCIETY
Multitask color printer (copier, printer, fax, scanner)
350 square feet of free or dirt-cheap office space
Recycled copy paper (legal and letter size)
General office supplies
Three two-line phones
PO Box 40787, Austin, 78704, 300-BIRD (2473).
www.travisaudubon.org

TREASURE CITY THRIFT
Working panel van or truck
Publicity and advertising
Copy cards to Kinkos, etc.
Interior paint colors
Useable household goods
Gas cards
Canopies
Men's shoes
Mannequins
Laptop
Furniture
Electronics
Electrician
1720 E. 12th, 524-2820.
treasurecitythrift.org

WILLIAMSON COUNTY CRISIS CENTER
Gift cards to HEB or Wal-Mart ($10 increments preferred)
Swingline model 535 three-hole electric punch
New or gently used scrubs or sweat suits
Pajamas for women and children
Diapers (sizes 3 to 5)
School supplies, black pens
Hewlett Packard P3005 printer
Postage stamps
Day planners, journals
Slippers
Backpacks
Post-It notes
White copy paper (20 pounds, 104 brightness, 8.5 x 11 inch)
Gift cards to Office Depot or Office Max
New manila folders
Lexmark Model 10N0217 #17 black ink cartridges
Art paper, washable paint, drawing pads
School glue, glue sticks, glitter
Stress balls
Inspirational books
Games for teens
Adult scissors
Colored chalk
Children's paintbrushes
Ethnic books for children
Markers (washable and permanent)
Toilet paper, Kleenex, paper towels
Baby bottles
Cleaning supplies, dishwashing soap
Liquid hand soap, disposable razors
Shampoo, conditioner, body-wash gel
Baby wipes, powder, soap, and shampoo
Ethnic make-up and hair-care products
Hair gel, hairspray, deodorant
211 Commerce #103, Round Rock, 512/255-1212.
www.wccc.info

YELLOW BIKE PROJECT
Bike mechanics, accountants, grant writers, event organizers, building contractors, civil engineers
Tools of all kinds (especially metric box-end wrenches, 8-17 mm, and screwdrivers)
Quality bikes (especially road bikes)
700c wheels (no bent rims)
Saddles in good condition
Working floor pumps
Locks with keys
Blinky lights
2013 E. 51st, 457-9880.
www.austinyellowbike.org

THE HIGHTOWER REPORT

BY JIM HIGHTOWER

FREE MARKET HYPOCRITES

Here's today's provocative question from professor Hightower: Why do so many giant corporations hate the marketplace?

Yes, hate. Oh, sure CEOs loudly proclaim themselves to be free market worshippers, and they piously preach against the cardinal sin of government interference in the awesome workings of the holy marketplace. But after church, these corporate executives slink into the back alleys of devilish government to procure subsidies, regulations, and other favors to satisfy their profit lust.

Take the case of Monsanto Co., which makes a product known as bovine growth hormone that forces cows to produce more milk. Aside from the damage this does to cows, BGH is essentially an artificial sex hormone passed through the cow's milk to people who drink it.

Guess what? Consumers – especially mothers – do not want their families drinking sex hormones. So there has been such a consumer outcry against BGH milk that numerous dairies and supermarkets now offer milk that's labeled as being free of artificial growth hormones, so consumers can have a clear choice. Splendid! That's the free market at work, right?

Right, but Monsanto hates it! We must have new government regulations to outlaw these additive-free labels, cries Monsanto, because they mislead consumers into thinking there's something wrong with sexed-up milk. So lobbyists for Monsanto and its BGH users have been swarming state governments, demanding regulators interfere in the sacred marketplace. Our competitors must not be allowed to tell shoppers what's not in their milk, wail these lobbyists, for this information "confuses" consumers.

The confused ones are the corporations – confused on the concept of the free market. If they're so proud of BGH milk, they should have their own labels declaring: "Mmmm, yummy! Milk with artificial sex hormones added!"

LOBBYISTS GO SHOPPING

'Tis the shopping season, and many bedraggled consumers are going store-to-store seeking gifts for loved ones. But the most determined shoppers of all this season are corporate lobbyists, scurrying from agency to agency in Washington in search of special favors for themselves. They're not interested in giving, but in getting.

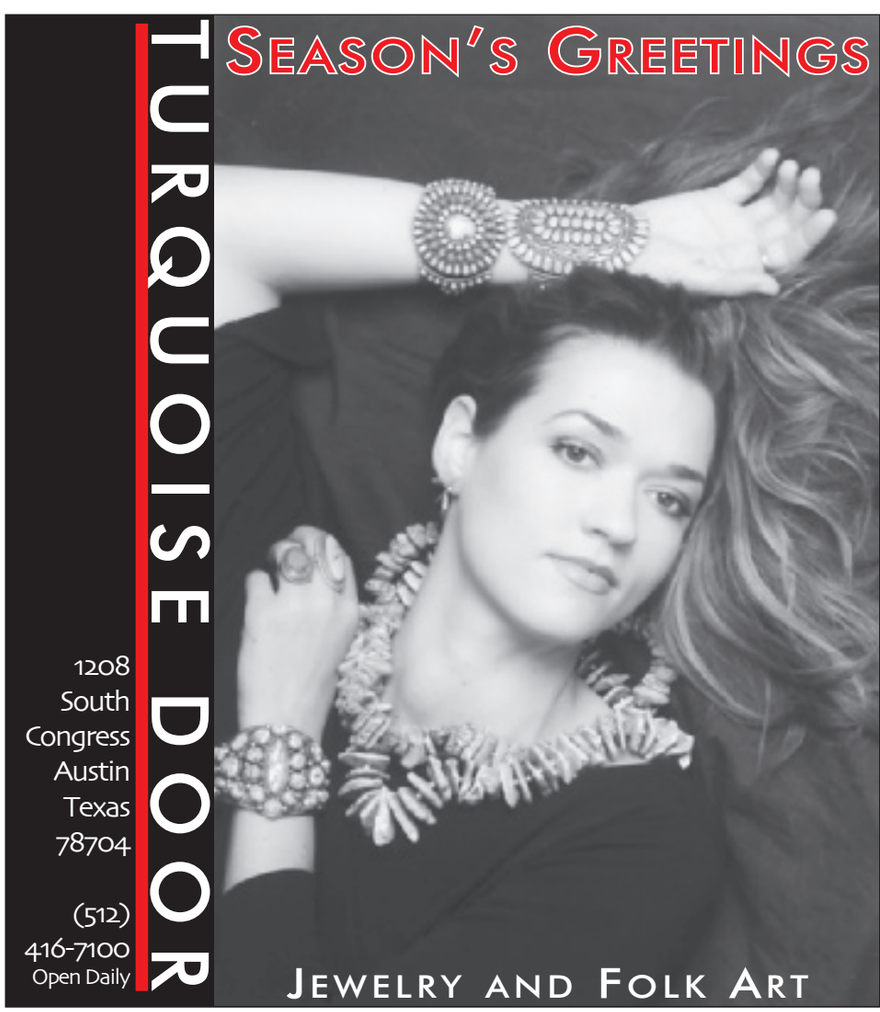
Indeed, they've already given. They put tens of millions of dollars into the campaign coffers of George W. and the GOP, and they've enjoyed big-time payback for seven years. But time is running out – Republicans lost control of Congress, and Bush is soon to go, so corporate lobbyists are now on a frantic, last-minute shopping spree, grabbing all they can while they can.

Their shopping list is filled with requests for the Bushites to rig regulatory rules to benefit their industries. Coal barons, for example, are pleading for permission to dump tons of rubble and waste into the valleys and streams of Appalachia. This "spoil," as they call it, is the byproduct of an environmentally devastating mining shortcut called mountaintop removal. To get at the coal, they blow up the top third of these beautiful mountains. Rather than hauling off their rubble, they want a final OK to shove it down the mountainside, burying the streams, animals, and everything else below.

On other fronts, such chicken potentates as Perdue want an exemption from public health laws that ban massive releases of ammonia from their factory farms, electric power plants want to increase their toxic emissions without the "burden" of installing pollution controls, and big-business lobbyists are demanding new rules to keep workers from using the family leave laws that allow unpaid time-off to care for newborns or deal with family illness.

These truly are gifts that would keep on giving – giving profit to the few, and pain to the many.

For more information on Jim Hightower's work – and to subscribe to his award-winning monthly newsletter, The Hightower Lowdown – *visit* **www.jimhightower.com.**



The Insiders

Meet the three homegrown candidates to replace City Manager Toby Futrell

BY WELLS DUNBAR

Mayor Will Wynn reports that immediately after the holidays, national personnel search firm Arcus will bring the City Council a "big, fat three-ring binder" stuffed with names of new city manager candidates from across the nation. Once council settles on the top external candidates – perhaps no more than three – council will release those names for public discussion.

But while we wait to see the external contenders, the three declared internal candidates – Assistant City Manager Laura Huffman, Austin Energy General Manager Juan Garza, and Assistant City Manager Rudy Garza – are ready for inspection: all longtime public servants with histories, résumés, and paper trails. We recently spoke with the three insiders to get a sense of their careers, their accomplishments and failings, to try to discern what type of city manager each might be.

The Front-Runner

Regarded in some political circles as the front-runner due to her high-profile position as well as reports of wired politicos lobbying on her behalf, Austin native Laura Huffman comes with a dense local résumé – and, many think, the institutional support of current City Manager Toby Futrell.

Not counting a teenage lifeguard stint at Northwest Pool, Huffman's career with the city began in 1990, in the Office of the City Auditor, doing performance-based and investigative auditing. Two years later, she became an executive assistant in the city manager's office. The original Save Our Springs charter amendment had recently passed, Huffman said, and environmental and development issues took up a good amount of her time. "It was also a very interesting period in Austin history, because it was a transition between two city managers," she says. Toward the end of Huffman's time there, Jesus Garza – Futrell's mentor and predecessor – came on quickly to replace City Manager Camille Barnett, forced to resign amid an expensive accounting controversy at Brackenridge Hospital. "It all happened very quickly."

In 1994, Huffman left Austin for the smaller city hall of San Marcos, where she served eight years as assistant city manager. "One of the things I wanted to do professionally was … understand the mechanics of local government. The easiest way to do that is work in a smaller system with fewer resources," Huffman said of her move. "It's just a more granular experience."

In May 2002 – when Futrell was named acting city manager – Huffman returned to Austin as assistant city manager, with responsibility for the public-safety departments: police, fire, EMS, courts, and the like. With September 11 fresh in the public mind, homeland security concerns were paramount. The post-9/11 recession also loomed over Huffman's lead 2003-2004 negotiation of the fire and police contracts, including the new "public safety premium" – a guaranteed 2% extra for police and fire (and now EMS employees) on top of any raise received by non-public-safety employees. (For instance, if the civilian workforce is due a 3.5% raise, public safety gets 5.5%.) The concession – though a city policy decision, not Huffman's sole responsibility – has since been widely criticized as causing a spike in public-safety spending, on a pace eventually to exhaust the city's entire general budget.

Huffman defends the contracts as costing less at the time. "Here's one thing to keep in mind … that contract was the first one that cost the city less money than the contract before it. … The goal was to start ratcheting back the contracts, and that goal was achieved. They're still excessive contracts, but the point is, part of the charge was to find a way to start reducing the cost of those contracts – and at the time, the public-safety premium accomplished that goal." Police and fire contracts expire next year, with Huffman conceding that "we'll have to keep looking at … ways to reduce costs." (The city has already made overtures toward abolishing the premium and instituting uniform, citywide cost-of-living increases.)

In 2004, Huffman moved from public safety to development and environmental services: Economic Growth and Redevelopment, Neighborhood Planning and Zoning, and Watershed Protection and Development Review. She's presided over controversial battles in Austin's new-boom growth wars, most notably the Wal-Mart at Northcross Mall controversy (following Futrell's recusal). Huffman says, "I think we have an emerging set of policies that also reflect how Austin has grown in a way that makes sense to the community that's here and that's going to be Austin-esque to the people that are coming," strategies like the Burnet Road/North Gateway plan. Asked whether the city has prioritized growth above other citizen concerns, Huffman is diplomatically vague: "Austin is a city that still struggles with the issues of growth. There's no question that we've had lots and lots of lively debates about whether or not we've hit the mark on those. And every Thursday at 4:30, we debate it at a much more detailed level. But ultimately I think those are good conversations to have. … Austin is a city that's not afraid to have a conversation about what 'right' looks like."

Finally, asked whether her perceived closeness to incumbent Futrell is an advantage or a liability, Huffman responded simply, "I think Austin is a savvy enough city to understand the difference between two people."

The Troubleshooter

"I'm a career public servant, been in government going on 19 years, specifically in city government 16 years," says Rudy Garza, "so I've been doing it for quite a while – not half my life, but just under half my life." After a stint as an auditor with the state comptroller's office, Garza began his municipal career in the city of Corpus Christi accounting office, ascending to budget director before joining Austin as budget officer in 2000, at the start of the economic slump – the first in a series of badly timed breaks. "Everybody teases me about it – what the hell have I done to always end up with all the crappy things that happen with the city?" Garza asks. "But my style has always been very hands on, to get very involved. Maybe I stick my head in too many times and should back off, but that's not my style." Dealing with the downturn defined Garza's time in the budget office. "We ended up cutting slightly over 700 positions," he says, yet thanks to retirements and restructuring, "of those 700, it was less than a handful of people who actually lost their jobs. … We cut positions, we weren't actually cutting people."

In 2004, Garza became assistant city manager over public safety, when Huffman moved over to development. He remembers trying to reduce traffic fatalities; in 2005 Hurricane Katrina struck, with Garza earning accolades for his role in coordinating the city's response. The period was also a turbulent time for the APD, with the police shooting of Daniel Rocha, the end of Stan Knee's tenure as chief, and other assorted controversies. It's here the con-

ventional wisdom began that Garza's been pushed from department to department when things were about to sour.

Since becoming assistant city manager over capital improvement projects in 2006 (Public Works, Small and Minority Business Resources, the Austin Water Utility, Aviation, and the Convention Center), the hits have kept on coming: erroneous certification of small and minority businesses leading to the certification firm's dismissal, the murky financial and customer-survey shenanigans at the Convention Center, Water Treatment Plant No. 4's ongoing woes, and conflict-of-interest allegations in the Austin Clean Water Program.

Garza believes the revelations are healthy. "I really firmly believe – and this sounds very corny – if you can just get the truth out on the table, you can start working it out. Whether it's pleasant or unpleasant, what's the issue? Let's deal with it." He also says his capital improvement projects experience immersed him in "planning review, permitting issues, water infrastructure, talking to the community, to contractors, finding out what's going on with them. [I've gotten] very well versed in the infrastructure area." Another persistent buzz concerning Garza is the hindrance of his apparent youth – a perception the fresh-faced 41-year-old is familiar with. "I wish I was as young as people thought I was, but unfortunately I'm not. I'd love to be in my 20s or 30s, but time has served me well. I think I'm young enough that I have the capacity to learn more, and I certainly have the energy and the passion that's necessary to do the job."

The Veteran

Rudy Garza has fans – including one Juan Garza, 63-year-old Austin Energy general manager. "He's a fine, fine, fine young man," says the elder Garza. "One of my heroes." Although they share the same surname and came to Austin from service with the city of Corpus Christi, the two men are not related. "Rudy worked for [Corpus Christi] when I worked there," Garza recalls. "He was here before me, probably about a year, I would think." Yet Juan says, "I don't recall ever discussing my career moves with Rudy at all, because he was one of my employees."

Born in O'Donnell (near Lubbock), Juan Garza brings an interesting background. "I grew up all over the Midwest and Southwest; my parents were migrants, so we followed the crops," he says. Home is Texas, or, in Garza's eyes, "God's country." It's of a piece with the reverent language he uses to describe public service: "What brings us to work every morning is [seeing] if we can attach and focus on the greater purpose. What greater purpose can there be but to serve the community? It's what brings you back in the morning."

After an Army tour of Vietnam and earning his degree, in 1968 Garza entered public service in Evanston, Ill., staying for 12 years. In 1983, he came to Corpus Christi, becoming city manager in five short years. "My predecessor basically was asked to leave," he says. "They searched about for a successor, and they settled on me real quickly." Garza recalls complicated negotiations for basic needs taking center stage: A water shortage required state legislation and regional cooperation to procure additional rights; Garza also oversaw purchase of a landfill to meet Corpus Christi's long-term needs.

Garza was manager from 1988 to 1996. "City management is a temporary honor. It doesn't last forever. The city keeps moving, keeps changing and evolving. At some point, it's time for you to find something different. … But city management is also hugely rewarding in terms of serving this bigger purpose." After leaving the city, Garza "knocked around" Corpus Christi, founded an unsuccessful power company, and serving as CEO of a children's hospital, among other pursuits.

In 2000, Garza joined Austin as director of Human Resources, at the beginning of the downturn; like Rudy, he also had to make tough personnel decisions. "Any time you cut the workforce, happy is not a good way to describe it," he says, "but we were satisfied we had accomplished the goal we had been given to accomplish." Still, Garza says, "That didn't happen as a result of anything I did. Toby Futrell and [former City Manager] Jesus Garza showed tremendous leadership in getting that done."

In January 2002, Garza took over at Austin Energy. His time at AE hasn't been free of controversy. Earlier this year, when the *Austin American-Statesman* reported Futrell's placement of her brother-in-law at Austin Energy, Garza's recollection that former Austin Energy Vice President Al Lujan was pressured to make the hire cast Futrell (and the utility) in an unflattering light. Recent revelations of police fishing expeditions in Austin Energy's records have raised troubling questions about the utility's complicity in data mining (see "APD Pot-Hunters Are Data-Mining at AE," Nov. 16).

"My primary responsibility is to create an environment that draws you to work every morning," Garza says. "We're here to keep the lights on for the community. We power this community; without us it can't function. When you know that greater purpose, it's easy to do even the tedious work."

Inside or Out?

Reluctant to speak more broadly concerning the city manager search, Juan Garza restricted himself to his personal history; asked for his thoughts on the process, he said, "The ultimate deciders … are the City Council. Their collective judgment is what's best for the community." Huffman and Rudy Garza were more direct. "Are there advantages to going outside versus staying inside?" asks Huffman. "No, not by definition. I think what matters is looking at the individual, taking a hard look at past performance and how the individual produces results. … I think you can implement change either as an internal candidate or external candidate."

Rudy Garza concurs. "I think it's somewhat unfair to assume that because an internal candidate is internal, we walk around with blinders on, and it's just the status quo. At the core, I'm a professional, and I want to serve our people. And if our people are saying we wanna see things differently, then that's what we'll do." Garza also shares Huffman's perspective on inside experience: "I don't believe that an external candidate has specific qualities that we don't. In fact, as an internal candidate, the fact is I spent the last almost eight years here; I have relationships with the community; I am familiar with a lot of the issues and concerns that they have, whereas an external candidate wouldn't have that. Doesn't mean they couldn't get there, not learn it, but I see that [as] more [of] an advantage."

It's this balancing act – distancing oneself from the current regime but not too far – that characterizes the insiders' pitch: the capacity to be a change-agent while working within the existing machinery. It's a calculation at least some council members share, indicated by Mayor Pro Tem Betty Dunkerley's belief that the manager selection should not be an "election issue" in spring council campaigns. It's punctuated by Downtown buzz that the comparatively meager contract Austin signed with Arcus – $25,000 – meant the firm wouldn't expend too much energy in its search, effectively making the appointment the insiders' to lose.

Insider or outsider, Austin's next city manager will be named in less than a month, following a whirlwind interview timeline (see "The Search Timeline"). We'll have to wait to see whether the external candidates will make as much of an impact on council in two interviews as Huffman, Rudy Garza, and Juan Garza, in their combined decades of city service. ■

THE SEARCH TIMELINE

In January, Arcus will provide the City Council with the complete list of external applicants for the city manager post. A confidentiality agreement with Arcus covers the master list of applicants (for protection in their current employment), but according to Mayor Will Wynn, whose office is directing the search, "Once we choose the semifinalists ... we are in ownership of that information, and fundamentally it becomes public." In contrast to the police chief search, no public hearings or meetings with the candidates are scheduled, prior to the announcement of the council's selection, although the names of the semifinalists and finalists will become public once they're selected. *– W.D.*

Jan. 3 or 4: Specially Called Executive Session: Identify semifinalists among external candidates

"Arcus meets with City Council to verbally review all internal and external candidates and to narrow the list of external candidates to a manageable number of the most superior candidates (perhaps as few as three) for the first round of face-to-face interviews."

Jan. 8 and 9: Specially Called Executive Session: Interview all semifinalists

"First round of face-to-face interviews with the three internal, and selected external, semifinalist candidates. City Council will then narrow the list to two finalists."

Jan. 16: Specially Called Executive Session: Interviews with two finalists

"Final one-on-one interviews with, and presentations by, the two finalists."

Jan. 17: Regularly Scheduled City Council Meeting

"City Council names the next city manager."

You could save. Just leave it to your favorite talking Gecko.

- Convenient local office
- Money-saving discounts
- Low down payments
- Monthly payment plans
- 24-hour service and claims

GEICO Local Office®

AUTO • HOME • RENTERS
MOTORCYCLE • BOAT

732-2211 ext. 3
9041 Research Blvd. Suite 240
(Hwy 183 at Burnet Rd., above Black-Eyed Pea)

Home, renters, and boat coverages are written through non-affiliated insurance companies and are secured through Insurance Counselors Inc, the GEICO Property Agency. Some discounts, coverages, payment plans, and features are not available in all states or in all GEICO companies. © 2007 GEICO. The GEICO gecko image © GEICO 1999-2007

Drug War Blowback

The shooting of Felix Rosales raises persistent questions about APD tactics

BY JORDAN SMITH

Autumn finally arrived in Austin shortly after midnight on Monday, Oct. 22. On Sunday, the temperature had peaked at nearly 90 degrees, before beginning a steady overnight descent, prompted by a strong cold front pushing across Central Texas. The norther brought stiff winds and heavy rain, and Monday's high temperature of 74 registered just before 12:30am, as the mercury continued to drop. By 6am the rain was still coming down, and the wind was gusting up to 40 mph.

It would've been a good day to sleep late.

For a team of at least seven Austin Police Department narcotics officers, that was not an option. In fact, the officers – including several detectives and at least one sergeant – were not only awake but were already at work, clad in their "battle dress" blacks, Kevlar vests and helmets, preparing to execute a drug warrant at the home of Felix and Cruz Rosales in the Montopolis neighborhood of South Central Austin. Under a search warrant signed three days earlier by Travis Co. District Judge Melissa Goodwin, the officers were authorized to be there to search for a "quantity of cocaine" and for other items associated with the drug trade: U.S. currency; drug paraphernalia, including scales, plastic bags, and vials; tally sheets or ledgers documenting drug transactions; and photographs or video recordings a dealer might make of himself and his stash (perhaps for black-market bragging rights).

Just after 6am, roughly a half-hour before sunrise, the team was in place, outside the Rosales home on Club Terrace Drive, and ready to execute the warrant. According to the narratives of two subsequent police affidavits, the events on the morning of Oct. 22 began in a rather routine and orderly manner. The lead case agent, Detective John Wills, led the warrant team to the front door of the Rosales home where Detective Randy Dear knocked on the door and began to yell repeatedly: "Austin Police! Search warrant! Open the door!" His shouts turned into something of a cop chorus when at least two other officers, Wills and Detective Aaron Bishop, joined in; Sgt. Robert McGowan added his voice to the mix, counting for a "considerable amount of time" – that is, counting to 15 – in order to give the occupants a chance to answer the door. When McGowan reached 15, however, no one inside the home had responded. By law, the provisions of their standard "knock and announce" warrant were satisfied, and the officers were cleared to force entry – they broke down the front door with a battering ram.

What happened next, however, wasn't exactly routine – nor was it sufficiently anticipated. According to Detective Russell Overhue, members of the team continued to "announce their presence" as they entered the house; shortly thereafter, he said, he heard "what he believed to be" a gunshot. As he made his way through the front door and into the living room, Overhue said he saw colleague Detective Robert Benfer "down on the ground and … not initially moving."

Bishop heard the gunshot, too, he told police investigators. Looking across the living room and into the kitchen, Bishop first saw an unarmed Hispanic male, later identified as Jesse Rosales; shifting his gaze left, Bishop next saw an "elderly male," later identified as 72-year-old Felix Rosales, standing at the entrance to the hallway and holding a "semiautomatic handgun," he said. Several officers, including Bishop, yelled for Rosales to drop his weapon, but Rosales did not comply. Bishop said he then saw Rosales "raise the gun" toward detectives Benfer and Wills. "To prevent Rosales from harming anyone else," Bishop told investigators "he was forced to fire upon the suspect." The shot struck Rosales in the chest. The officers quickly retreated, back through the front door, pulling Benfer with them to safety. As the officers were leaving, Bishop said, he could see Rosales at the far end of the hallway, lying on the floor near the bathroom door.

Once outside, the officers yelled for Jesse Rosales to come out of the house. He did so and was followed by his mother, 70-year-old Cruz Rosales. The only person left inside, mother and son told police, was the wounded Felix. The APD Special Weapons and Tactics team was called in and – roughly an hour later, after deploying a robot to survey the scene inside – the SWAT officers removed Felix Rosales from the house.

Rosales and Benfer were treated at Brackenridge Hospital. Benfer took a bullet that tore straight through his foot and landed in the front yard; he was treated and released that afternoon. Rosales' injury required surgery. Although police told reporters that Rosales was "expected to make a full recovery," it isn't clear that is (or ever was) the case. At press time, Rosales was still in the hospital and in the custody of the Travis Co. Sheriff's Office, charged with attempted capital murder for, according to an arrest warrant, "intentionally and knowingly shooting a firearm at peace officers." Should Rosales ever recover sufficiently to be tried, and if he's convicted, he could spend his remaining years in prison.

It wasn't long after the initial action subsided that APD Chief Art Acevedo arrived at the scene on Club Terrace. The chief told reporters that officers executing the search warrant at the Rosales home acted exactly as they were supposed to. They knocked on the door and clearly announced their presence before entering the house, where they were met with gunfire, he

continued on p.36

ACC: Smart Choice.

Now accepting applications for
Spring 2008
Don't wait, classes fill up fast!

Early registration begins Nov. 12
(current and former students only)

Open registration begins Nov. 19

Visit **www.austincc.edu**
or call (512) 223.4ACC

AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
Start Here. Get There.

Affordable Tuition • Flexible Schedules • Small Classes • Great Faculty

Did Someone Say Presents?

Find the perfect holiday gift for your feline friend. Keep them entertained with catnip, scratch pads, cat trees and hundreds of toys from our recently expanded cat department.

4604 Burnet Road (1 block north of 45th St.)
512-452-3883 • www.barknpurr.com

Bark 'n Purr PET CENTER

CITY OF AUSTIN SOLID WASTE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

HOLIDAY COLLECTION SCHEDULE

SOLID WASTE SERVICES ***SLIDES***

Christmas Day and **New Year's Day** are **"Slide"** holidays for garbage, recycling and yard trimmings collection.

Tuesday **DECEMBER**	Wednesday **DECEMBER**	Thursday **DECEMBER**	Friday **DECEMBER**	Saturday **DECEMBER**
~~25~~	SLIDE → 26	SLIDE → 27	SLIDE → 28	SLIDE → 29
***NO* COLLECTION** CHRISTMAS DAY	**TUESDAY COLLECTION**	**WEDNESDAY COLLECTION**	**THURSDAY COLLECTION**	**FRIDAY COLLECTION**

The City's Household Hazardous Waste Facility will be closed the week of Christmas and New Year's Day.

Tuesday **JANUARY**	Wednesday **JANUARY**	Thursday **JANUARY**	Friday **JANUARY**	Saturday **JANUARY**
~~1~~	SLIDE → 2	SLIDE → 3	SLIDE → 4	SLIDE → 5
***NO* COLLECTION** NEW YEAR'S DAY	**TUESDAY COLLECTION**	**WEDNESDAY COLLECTION**	**THURSDAY COLLECTION**	**FRIDAY COLLECTION**

CURBSIDE CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING — STARTING DECEMBER 26
Set your tree at the curb by 6:30 a.m. on your yard trimmings collection day. Remove all ornaments, lights, decorations and the stand; only the tree itself can be recycled. ***Trees six feet or taller must be cut in half.***

Call 3-1-1 for more information or visit austinrecycles.com

REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE SOLID WASTE SERVICES

The house of Felix Rosales, 72, and his family on Club Terrace Drive in Southeast Austin, where an Austin Police Department raid ended in the shooting of Rosales and APD Detective Robert Benfer. Rosales reportedly played semiprofessional baseball many years ago, explaining the unusual mailbox.

JANA BIRCHUM

said. In response, he said, his officers "did exactly what they were trained to do," reported KVUE's Melissa McGuire. "We're just happy that no lives were lost, including the suspect," Acevedo said. "We think [Rosales is] going to make it, because our job is to keep the peace and keep people safe, and it appears no lives were lost in this incident."

Whether Rosales will indeed "make it" remains to be seen. Members of the Rosales family declined to be interviewed for this story, but sources familiar with the case say that Felix Rosales' physical condition is precarious at best. More important is the question of whether executing a drug warrant by means of a "dynamic entry" – such as the routine knock-and-announce procedure APD employed on Club Terrace – is actually a way to "keep the peace" or "keep people safe." That's a matter of widespread national debate, and many policing experts question the tactics involved in executing such raids and their efficacy in deterring the illicit drug trade. "Unfortunately, this is standard operating procedure throughout the country, and in my view [the raids] are really contrary to the basic police mission, which is to protect life and property," says Joseph McNamara, a research fellow with Stanford University's Hoover Institution, who began his 35-year policing career in Seventies New York City before being named police chief, first in Kansas City and later in San Jose, Calif. "I have reached the conclusion that police departments do not give consideration to balancing the dangers and achievements of these raids."

Improbable Cause

Executing a search warrant, particularly one issued for a private residence, is among the most dangerous of all police operations. There is a risk to everyone involved – not only for residents and neighbors, but also for the police officers charged with carrying out the task. This is precisely because, no matter how much planning is involved, it is nearly impossible to predict what lies behind a closed door. And mitigating, or controlling for that element of surprise, is crucial to a safe and successful operation, says APD Cmdr. Duane McNeill, who oversees the department's newly organized Metro Tactical team, which includes the narcotics and organized-crime units. "We put in as many safeguards as we can," he says. "We try to do as much research as we can before executing the warrant."

All research, of course, begins with the initial investigation, which will ultimately become the underlying basis for any warrant. Simply put, the investigative legwork focuses on attaching a particular suspect (or suspects) to evidence of a suspected crime in order to build the elements of probable cause. Those elements are then organized into a narrative and presented to a judge who is tasked with reviewing the detective work and submitted facts before deciding whether the totality of the evidence supports a law-enforcement request to enter a private dwelling for the purpose of exposing an alleged criminal act. Probable cause is far more than bare suspicion and is generally defined within law as the "existence of certain facts which would lead a person of reasonable intelligence and prudence to believe that a crime has been committed." In other words, says McNeill, investigators need more than just a random tip in order to earn the legal right to enter a person's home: "It's not like someone just calls us and says, 'Hey, someone's dealing drugs,' and we just write that up and get a warrant," he says. In fact, he says, of "all the warrants issued by a judge, a search warrant for a residence is the most difficult to obtain because we're talking about a Fourth Amendment right" to be secure in home and property and free from unreasonable search and seizure. "The judge is an independent fact-finder," says McNeill, "so it's really difficult" to obtain permission to search a person's property.

"Unfortunately, this is standard operating procedure throughout the country, and in my view [dynamic-entry raids] are really contrary to the basic police mission, which is to protect life and property."
– Joseph McNamara, Hoover Institution

In a perfect world that might be true, says Hoover fellow McNamara, but the day-to-day reality is quite different – particularly when it comes to obtaining search warrants in drug cases. McNamara argues that getting drug warrants is "extremely easy to do – and not just in Texas – because drugs are 'evil,' and we're engaged in a 'war' against [this] evil." As a result, he says, over time, police can determine which judges are most sympathetic to their cause and learn that they can often get a warrant without putting in the kind of rigorous front-end legwork that would truly establish probable cause. That extra front-end work would mean dedicating investigative time and energy to building fewer but more substantial cases, against higher-level dealers that may actually have more impact on the drug trade in a particular community.

Instead, the Drug War has rendered much of narcotics enforcement a game of numbers for public-safety bean-counters, where effective policing is measured by quantity – the total number of raids, for example, and arrests and drug or property seizures – instead of by the quality of the police action and of the crooks apprehended. "I've locked up many, many drug users, but I just think [that this is] a social and medical problem, and that by making it a crime problem, we've just created a huge black market for violence," says McNamara. "All too often police don't accept that."

Since 2003, APD's narcotics detectives have executed close to 400 drug warrants each year at private residences. (The exception is 2004, when they executed just 220 such warrants.) As of mid-December, the 2007 total stood at 377 warrants, including the raid at the Rosales home. "It is a lot," and the work is "not easy," McNeill notes. "[But] we're going to do our job. If that means a lot" of warrants, then his investigators will pursue and serve those warrants.

The danger, of course, is that placing a premium on productivity also places lives at risk – including the lives of police officers. "It [becomes] about making numbers – knocking 'em down and moving on to the next. Sacrificing good investigative work, common sense, good judgment, and officer safety," says one veteran APD investigator. "They get in a hurry to get things done – to answer citizen complaints about dope houses. That's fine, but let's not sacrifice officer safety."

McNeill denies vociferously the notion that his officers ever slight their investigative duties or inadequately consider safety factors when preparing to serve a warrant. "All the factors as to the execution of the search warrant [are reviewed and planned] based on the danger element," he said. They run each warrant they serve through a "risk matrix," for example, and in cases where the danger element is extremely high, the warrant is kicked up to the SWAT team to handle. And although sergeants are responsible for approving all warrant actions, McNeill says he is apprised of his team's operations and goes out with them as often as possible. "The thing that drives me, and the message I send to my folks, is that we take care of people in the community and victims of crime," he says. "We do all the planning and preparation and communication and hope it turns out good. As with Rosales, you know, that [still] doesn't always ensure the best outcome."

The Grace of God

By all available indications, the police investigation into the Rosales family – or presumably, the investigation of Felix Rosales – began less than a month before the raid. APD Detective Wills did not include in his three-page search-warrant affidavit the date the investigation commenced, but he does detail the phone call that got things rolling. According to the affidavit he filed with Goodwin on Oct. 19, Wills "received information from a concerned citizen that there is an elderly Hispanic male that is keeping and distributing crack cocaine from their residence on Club Terrace," he wrote, from a home with "a large sculpture of a baseball bat in the front yard." Wills "conducted surveillance" on the entire length of Club Terrace and, finding only one with a baseball bat in the yard, surmised that this was the house in question. He shagged the license plate number off a car parked in the drive and confirmed that it was registered to Cruz Rosales; moreover, he noted that the Austin Energy database identified Felix Rosales as the utility customer at the home. He also perused APD records, he wrote, which revealed that a younger Rosales, 30-year-old Philip Cruz, had once been charged with "resisting arrest." (There are no details regarding this arrest included in Wills' affidavit, and a similar criminal-records check conducted by the *Chronicle* failed to discover any criminal history for the younger Rosales.)

continued on p.38

GET UNLIMITED TALK, TEXT AND PIX
FOR LESS THAN $1 A DAY.

YOU CAN FIND THAT MUCH CHANGE IN YOUR COUCH.

For a limited time get unlimited talk, text and pix, including unlimited text to Mexico for only **$25/mo**. That's less than a buck a day. The other guys charge almost as much for unlimited text alone. Hurry to a Cricket store today.

$49.99

Get a cool flip phone for just $49.99 and your first month of service FREE- without signing a contract.

COME IN TODAY!

Caffco
730 W. Stassney
512-326-4604

2027 W. Anderson Ln.

Wireless Solutions
1330 Aquarena Springs, San Marcos
512-436-4603

DC Wireless
5618 Manor Rd
512-926-9401

2206 7th Street
512-469-9994

1200 Howard Ln
512-993-1664

1941 N. IH-35, San Marcos
512-392-7172

Joopar
8711 N. Lamar
512-834-8878

9200 N. Lamar

cricket
authorized dealer
sales, service, payments

America's fastest growing wireless network.

mycrickettexas.com

Requires new activation and up to $15 activation fee. Features are phone dependent. Rates exclude taxes and Cricket Fees (including USF charge, a regulatory recovery fee of up to $0.45 and a surcharge for state/local fees that vary by market). Cricket Fees are not taxes or government-required charges. Unlimited refers to calls and messages made and/or received within your home calling area, U.S. long distance excludes Alaska. Terms, conditions and other restrictions apply. See store for details. (c) 2007 Cricket Communications, Inc.

BIOLAGE
Natural Beauty
Biolage brings the legendary powers of botanical extracts to modern haircare.
Biolage.
Available at our salon.
All Biolage Haircare Products
Buy One, Get One FREE*
Lesser value item free. Hurry in, limited time only!

We use and recommend Matrix professional hair care products.
BEAUTY STORE SALON & SPA
Brodie Oaks Central Market Westbank Market Round Rock
www.matrix.com
SALON BEAUTIFUL ENJOY!
MATRIX

4-Day Only Sale! 12/20 to 12/24

'02 BEST OF AUSTIN '05 BEST OF AUSTIN '07 BEST OF AUSTIN

Best Spare Computer Parts
Best Computer Service

Dell Optiplex GX270
2.4GHZ CPU
512MB RAM
40GB HD
Windows XP
Preloaded
$199 $179

10% OFF ALL COMPUTERS AND NOTEBOOKS

50% OFF ACCESSORIES

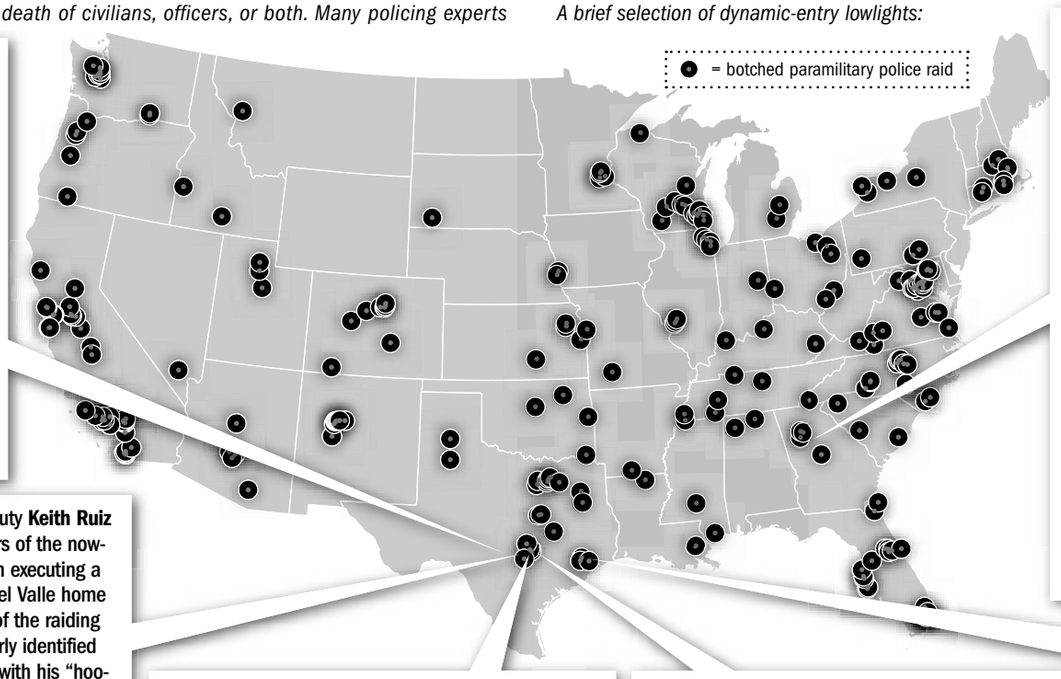
Mouse Pad	$1	$0.50
Keyboards	$6	$3
512MB USB Drive	$6	$3
Lego's	$10	$5
Mice	$10	$5
Photo Paper	$10	$5
288 CD Case	$20	$10
50 Pack CD-R	$20	$10
USB Webcam	$20	$10
100 Pack CD-R	$30	$15

www.LOGICAPPROACH.com
2500 S. Lamar Blvd
Mon - Sat 10 - 6
512-444-4443

THE TRAIL OF DEAD

Executing a warrant at a private residence is among the most risky of all police operations, because it's almost impossible to know what lies behind a closed door. Although many police agencies believe the SWAT-style "dynamic entry" is essential to the effective service of both "knock and announce" and "no knock" drug warrants, the practice has been implicated in a host of botched raids – a number of which have resulted in the death of civilians, officers, or both. Many policing experts say these raids simply aren't necessary, because there are plenty of other tactics for serving such warrants that are at least equally effective but far less risky to everyone involved. "There seems to be this absolute casualness to it that says, 'These things happen,'" says Hoover fellow Joseph McNamara. "And no one [ever] questions the basic policy." – J.S.

A brief selection of dynamic-entry lowlights:



May 1999: Nine police officers in SWAT gear conducted a predawn raid on the San Marcos home of **Alexander "Rusty" Windle**, accused of providing marijuana to an informant. Officers gave differing accounts as to whether or not they announced themselves. When Windle awoke to a disturbance in front of his home and answered the door with a rifle, an officer fired four rounds from his semiautomatic weapon, hitting Windle three times and killing him. Police later discovered that Windle's weapon was unloaded, with an activated safety mechanism. They found less than an ounce of marijuana in his home.

February 2001: Travis Co. Sheriff's Deputy **Keith Ruiz** was shot and killed while assisting members of the now-defunct Capital Area Narcotics Task Force in executing a knock-and-announce drug warrant at the Del Valle home of 23-year-old Edwin Delamora. Members of the raiding party later testified in court that they'd clearly identified themselves as police before Ruiz moved in with his "hooligan tool" to pry open the front door. Delamora, however, said he didn't know whether it was police or robbers who were actually trying to force entry. As the officers struggled to open the door, Delamora fired a single shot through a small window, striking Ruiz. Police seized just more than an ounce of marijuana and about 25 grams of methamphetamine. Delamora was convicted of capital murder and sentenced to life in prison.

May 16, 2001: Austin police officers raide home of **Maria Flores**, a grandmother; a flas grenade shattered her window, and the SWAT kicked in her door. Flores was pushed to the bound, and held at gunpoint while police tore her home searching for cocaine. They had mi her house for the one next door. Flores was t the hospital with internal bruising.

Dec. 20, 2001: A Travis Co. SWAT team stormed a mobile home on a no-knock drug warrant. Nineteen-year-old **Tony Martinez**, nephew of the man named in the warrant, was asleep on the couch. Martinez was unarmed and was never suspected of any crime. When he rose from the couch as police broke into the home, Deputy Derek Hill shot Martinez in the chest, killing him.

Nov. 21, 2006: Atlanta police officers shot and killed 92-year-old **Kathryn Johnston** while attempting to serve a no-knock raid at her home after allegedly receiving a tip that drugs were being sold there. The plainclothes cops cut through burglar bars and stormed through the door, where Johnston, thinking the men intruders, fired a .38-caliber revolver, hitting no one. The police unleashed 39 rounds, striking her multiple times. In the aftermath, the police planted marijuana in Johnston's house and bullied another informant into claiming he'd given them the tip. The Atlanta Police Department subsequently enacted a moratorium on all no-knock warrants and beefed up oversight of their narcotics units. In April, two of the raiding officers pleaded guilty to manslaughter charges in connection with Johnston's death.

July 12, 1998: Acting on a random tip and no search warrant, Houston police raided the home of **Pedro Oregon Navarro**; the intruders woke Navarro, who, startled, grabbed for his gun. Police shot Navarro 12 times, killing him. In 2005, two of the officers involved in the raid were fired.

(Many more examples can be found in Radley Balko's report "Overkill: The Rise of Paramilitary Police Raids in America," online at **www.cato.org**. *The full interactive map from which this one is excerpted is at* **www.cato.org/raidmap**.*)*

On Tuesday, Oct. 9, Wills' colleagues detectives Bishop and Rodrick Wesley cruised by the Rosales home to make a trash pull; they saw that the bin was set out at the curb for pickup, Wills explained, and "retrieved the entire … bin" for inspection. Inside, Wills reports, the detectives found a "clear plastic baggie containing a white powder residue," that tested "positive … for cocaine." Wills also reported finding discarded mail addressed to Felix and Cruz Rosales. A week later, on Oct. 16, Wills returned to Club Terrace to make another pass of the Rosales trash. This time, he wrote, he extracted additional clear plastic bags, one of which, it seems, also tested positive for cocaine; Wills also "noticed" that "several" of the baggies had "been cut open and wiped clean," he wrote. (The language of the warrant isn't precise, making it hard to determine exactly how many plastic bags Wills ultimately found – or what size they were – but apparently there were at least two.) "Based on the total number of baggies found, affiant believes that suspect is distributing cocaine," Wills wrote.

The detective's affidavit was topped off with boilerplate language about how drug dealers are known to keep cash on hand, along with "books, records, receipts, ledgers, bank records … and other papers relating to the sale and distribution of illegal controlled substances," as well as other "paraphernalia for packaging, cutting, weighing" and distributing drugs. The "investigation" was complete, and the warrant was crafted. And that was good enough for Judge Goodwin.

Nonetheless, the warrant – and the underlying investigation – left several significant stones unturned. For example, although the concerned citizen made a complaint about an "elderly" dealer living on Club Terrace, the warrant never mentions Felix Rosales except to report that his name appears on the electric and water bill and that he apparently receives mail there. Although Rosales had had contacts with the law before – including a 1956 beef for carrying a "prohibited weapon," a marijuana possession case from 1968, and a conviction for "assault of a peace officer" from 1974 – Wills never mentions Rosales' history. Likewise, there is no larger context offered for Philip Cruz Rosales' alleged run-in with the police. In sum, there is nothing within the warrant to suggest who, specifically, the police believed to be selling cocaine at the Rosales home.

"What happens when you kick someone's door down at 6am and they're asleep? If they've got a gun nearby, they're going to grab it."
– Jack Cole, Law Enforcement Against Prohibition

Nonetheless, with two trash pulls under their belts, the APD narcotics officers set out in the early-morning hours of Oct. 22 for the Rosales home, where it appears they felt confident they'd make a good dope collar. In the end, however, the officers found far less evidence of crime than they apparently expected. It was a little more than an hour after the officers initially hit the home that Felix Rosales was taken to Brackenridge and the officers were finally cleared to search the premises. According to a warrant return inventory filed with the court on Oct. 24, police seized about 0.2 grams of cocaine (a minuscule amount – about one-twelfth the weight of a penny). They also found 4.9 grams of marijuana (a little less than a quarter-ounce); several "bags and vials" with cocaine residue; two bottles of marijuana seeds; four digital scales and one hand scale; small quantities of random prescription medications, including pain relievers, muscle relaxants, and anticonvulsants; and $344 in cash.

Significantly, based on the kind and amount of drugs listed in the return, it doesn't appear that enough contraband was seized to charge Felix Rosales (or perhaps any other member of the family) with anything more than a state jail felony for possession of cocaine, plus misdemeanor charges for the pot and paraphernalia possession. The evidence hardly suggests a major dealer on the premises. That is irrelevant now, however, because Rosales is facing a far more serious charge: that he intentionally and knowingly tried to kill a police officer.

Officially, the APD landed a "good collar" – but was it worth it? That was the question on the minds of many in the hours after the raid. "It was but for the grace of God that the guy [Felix Rosales] couldn't shoot," one reporter told me in passing. "Otherwise we'd now have one dead civilian and at least one dead cop."

Protected by Smith & Wesson

To Radley Balko, a former policy analyst with the Cato Institute who has authored the definitive research to date on the rise of military policing tactics in the War on Drugs, the outcome of the Rosales raid is just another sad example of the dangers inherent in using dynamic-entry raids in low-level drug enforcement. "I'm deeply skeptical of these techniques in general," he

continued on p.40

How did 984 people know about our last minute holiday sale?

We use Emma.

With Emma, we're not only sending the most stylish holiday campaigns in Austin - we're also tracking the response in real time. So every time we hit send, we learn who's opening our emails, visiting our website, forwarding our promotions and more. It's all part of the Web's most user-friendly email marketing service, and it's helping us get the word out in style. Thanks, Emma.

emma
email marketing in style

See our gallery of seasonal designs at www.myemma.com/holiday

BEAUTY. CHARM. JOY.

3 GRACES
SKINCARE & SPA

Nourish the godess within.
See our web site
for a full list of services.

512.453.7000 • www.3gracesspa.com
6101 Balcones Dr. Ste. 100 (off 2222)
Austin, TX 78731
GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

SPARKS
Cards & Gifts

That Great Little Card Shop at 6th & Lamar!

Holiday Cards
Gift Wrap
Ornaments
Jewelry
T-Shirts
Novelty Gifts

Post-Christmas SALE
12/26 - 1/3
50% - 75% OFF

1014 W. 6th Street (512) 4SPARKS
www.sparksaustin.com

SEA OF BEADS

DELICAS NOW IN STOCK!

BEADS • SUPPLIES • CLASSES • PARTIES
2438 WEST ANDERSON LN.
533-9090
WWW.SEAOFBEADS.NET
M-F 10-7 • SAT 10-6 • SUN 12-6

HUNGER INSURANCE.

give money volunteer
donate food speak out

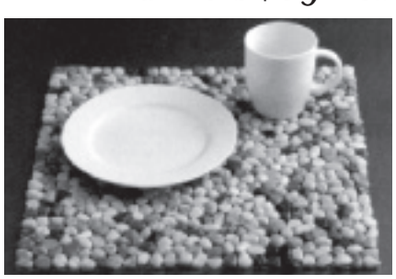
austinfoodbank.org
8201 S. Congress Ave.
Austin TX 78745
512.282.2111

CAPITAL AREA FOOD BANK OF TEXAS
Silver Anniversary

512.637.7100 | WWW.AUSTINGOODWILL.ORG

Gifts take from 25% to 70% off

Beachstone
Placemat $19.00 ea
Runners $69.00 ea



URBAN LIVING
www.urbanlivingaustin.com
financing available
7727 BURNET RD • MON-SAT 10-6 • SUN 1-5 • 451-2144

says, because in many instances – including the Rosales case – the practical result is that the police are actually "creating violence."

For starters, Balko argues that the Rosales investigation clearly wasn't as rigorous as it could have, or should have, been: "If you're going to invade someone's home, you need more than confidential tips and trash pulls," he says, before rattling off several similar situations he's aware of where limited investigation had deadly results – including the recent story of a Baltimore woman whose home was raided based solely on evidence from a trash pull. She was "in her bedroom and had a gun," Balko recalled; she heard someone breaking into the house, he said, and grabbed the gun. When the police entered her room she was shot and killed. Later, he said, police discovered they'd actually hit the wrong house.

Unfortunately, these are not isolated incidents, says Jack Cole, a former narcotics investigator with the New Jersey State Police who, after retiring from police work, in 2002 became one of three founding members of the nonprofit group Law Enforcement Against Prohibition. "It's all the same. They kicked the guy's door down," he says. "And what happens when you kick someone's door down at 6am and they're asleep? If they've got a gun nearby, they're going to grab it."

Indeed, there was no surveillance of the Rosales home before police applied for, and got, their search warrant, even though surveillance could have netted valuable information about any drug-dealing operation going on inside – including patterns of activity and behavior by residents and, perhaps, information on customers who might be coming by to score, which might have offered the detectives an opportunity to set up a controlled buy that in turn might have reduced their need to find a "quantity" of drugs inside the house in order to file a solid criminal case. In all, the information could have helped build a far stronger case against Felix Rosales. "If you really have a strong case, you shouldn't depend so much on the evidence found at the scene," says McNamara. "[Because] you've done undercover buys and other investigation."

Moreover, a modest amount of additional investigative work quite likely would've made the entire operation safer – and, quite possibly, might have saved Benfer and Rosales from being wounded or at least might have prompted the officers to consider taking a different approach to serve the warrant. Frankly, what the officers didn't know before hitting the house could've gotten them killed.

Specifically, they were unaware that the Rosales family had a total of 16 firearms, many of them loaded, inside the house. Amazingly, the possibility that weapons would be found in the house is never mentioned in Wills' search warrant affidavit – even though even a casual observer of the Rosales home on Club Terrace would likely reach that conclusion after spotting a sign posted behind a screen window just off the front porch that reads "Protected by Smith & Wesson." Apparently the detectives simply didn't look.

When APD homicide investigators later obtained a warrant to search for evidence connected to the shooting, they found four pistols, including a Colt .45 and a 9 mm Makarov, and 12 revolvers, including a .357-caliber Magnum Ruger, a .38-caliber special Rossi, and a collection of .22s.

McNeill couldn't comment directly on the substance of the Rosales case but explained that each narcotics investigation his officers conduct is unique, driven primarily by the "exigencies" and "emergency" of the alleged crime. "Not all investigations have the same time frame. There are long-term investigations, up to a year or more, and we may have times where [a case] is resolved the same day it comes to our attention," he says. "I think, like anything you do in any aspect of life, we always ask: Is there more we could've done? More to cross the 'T's and dot the 'I's? The thing is, in this job you do the most thorough job you can, and then you move on."

"You look at the totality of the circumstances, and we certainly want to bring it to a conclusion that is as safe as possible." – APD Cmdr. Duane McNeill

One SWAT Fits All

The use of dynamic-entry raids – with knock-and-announce warrants, like that in the Rosales case, or even the more reviled "no-knock" warrant, which allows police to force entry without any warning at all and has been implicated in a number of questionable shooting deaths – has become more common in policing drugs (see "The Trail of Dead," p.38). Experts McNamara and Cole say that isn't because they're uniquely necessary for drug-law enforcement. Moreover, says Cole, there is no scholarly research "to suggest that this stuff is effective" for drug enforcement.

The use of military-style dynamic entry began as the primary bailiwick of Special Weapons and Tactics teams. The modern police SWAT team – the most militarized and specialized of all policing operations – is generally thought to have been invented in the mid-Sixties by officers at the Los Angeles Police Department, who were inspired by the use of a specialized policing team in Delano, Calif., assembled to counter farmworker uprisings led by César Chávez. In the wake of several high-profile incidents – including the 1966 UT Tower sniper killings – the specialized teams quickly gained favor with the public and have been incorporated within police agencies across the country.

SWAT training is time-consuming and rigorous; maintaining a SWAT team is expensive, though equipping the teams has been made more affordable by agreements with the federal government, which will provide military gear for most any police department that wants it. In general, the mission of a SWAT team is extremely specialized, and it is particularly efficient in extremely dangerous situations – "barricaded people with hostages," for example, says Cole. "That's what [SWAT teams] were organized for, and they are very good when used for that" type of critical incident work. But as the Drug War ramped up in the Eighties, not only were police SWAT teams being called on more frequently to run routine drug warrants, but SWAT-style tactics – including the dynamic-entry raid – were increasingly being taught to non-SWAT officers in order to execute warrants, often for lower-level drug offenses. And that, experts say, is where things have gotten more dangerous. According to research conducted by Eastern Kentucky University professor Peter Kraska, by the early 1980s there were 3,000 annual SWAT team deployments across the country; by 2001 that number increased to about 40,000 call-outs.

David Klinger, a former police officer who began his career in Los Angeles before turning to academics and joining the faculty at the University of Missouri in St. Louis, has done extensive research on the police use of SWAT, which he considers a vital police resource. There are "times and places" where police should avail themselves of SWAT-style dynamic entry, especially "where you want, or need, to secure evidence that is easily destroyed," he says. "Say you've got a guy that killed someone else, and you get information that there's a letter inside [his] house that he wrote that lays out everything about the murder" he's committed, Klinger posits. The letter can be "easily destroyed," and imagine that "without it your murder case would fall apart," he continues. "In that situation you say, 'Okay, fine, we're going to do that,'" in order to preserve crucial evidence. But like McNamara and Cole, Klinger doesn't believe that using these tactics for drug enforcement is a good idea: "You asked about cost-benefit analysis," he said. "For my money, it's just not worth the risk to secure dope." (It would appear that the public agrees: A recent Zogby poll commissioned by the Drug Reform Coordination Network asked 1,028 likely voters whether they believed that police should use "aggressive entry tactics" in "often low-level drug enforcement" cases. The response was definitive: 65.8% – a majority across all geographic, racial, religious, and political lines – said no.)

In part that is true, Klinger said, because police have plenty of far less risky options that are at least equally effective, if not more effective, for executing drug warrants. While a case could be made for the "display of force" inherent in a dynamic raid for the execution of warrants against known "kingpins," he said a far safer option is to execute a warrant by "contain and call-out" – generally, where police announce their presence, ask the resident to come outside, and then wait for that to happen. While Klinger concedes this approach might offer drug dealers time to flush their stash, he says that isn't necessarily a bad thing: "If they're going to destroy the dope and if this is a big enough operation, and you do this [kind of enforcement action] six or seven times, then it's not going to be economically feasible" for the suspects to continue their dealings.

Beautiful Handmade Jewelry

From Cusco to Istanbul

TESOROS TRADING COMPANY®
FOLK ART & OTHER TREASURES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

209 CONGRESS AVENUE 512 / 479-8377
And Now Open at
1500 SOUTH CONGRESS 512 / 447-7500

EARACHE MUSIC BLOG

Death Valley Nights mulls over Rhino's new collection of the late, great Lee Hazlewood:

"Delivered in Hazlewood's innocent bystander shrug, think Shel Silverstein off his meds." - Raoul Hernandez

CHRONICLE austinchronicle.com/musicblog

Notably, says Law Enforcement Against Prohibition's Cole, dynamic-entry raids aren't integral to effective policing but are to the "attitude" of drug-law enforcement, he says. "It's this kind of attitude, of kicking down the door, even when it's not necessary," says Cole. And that sort of attitude can serve as a flash point for avoidable and potentially deadly violence – such as the predawn shooting inside the Rosales home. While police might say that the overwhelming show of force inherent to this type of raid is in fact key to effective enforcement, Cole says that more often than not it's simply an invitation to trouble. "Police say [dynamic entry] scares the heck out of 'em," Cole summarizes, "and they panic when they hear the door coming down," which supposedly paralyzes the suspects before they can react, offering police a better opportunity to control the situation. "That may be true," he continues, "but people panic for a couple of reasons: because they think there are cops breaking down the front door or because they don't think that it is the cops that are actually breaking down the front door." And that, he says, is dangerous – especially considering that in these situations the police are usually dealing with sleepy, groggy individuals. "Anyway you look at it, it is bad policing."

"We do all the planning and preparation and communication and hope it turns out good. As with Rosales, you know, that [still] doesn't always ensure the best outcome." – APD Cmdr. Duane McNeill

The APD insists that Rosales must have realized the intruders in his home were police – in part, because the younger Rosales, Jesse, appeared to understand the officers' commands to "get down on the ground," as APD Detective Jeff Greenwalt wrote in the subsequent warrant affidavit for Felix Rosales' arrest on the attempted murder charge. However, there is no publicly available evidence that confirms the elder Rosales knew what was happening that morning. Interviewed outside the Rosales home on Oct. 22, Elisabeth Rosales, Felix's granddaughter, told KVUE news that her grandfather has poor hearing and eyesight. "He could've thought it was a burglar. He just woke up. … He hears something," she said. "What is he going to do? Somebody's in his house, and he's shocked. He's an old man – what do you want him to do?"

"It's [generally] a lot more sensible to convince someone to come outside, and then you've got them, and you can go back in, and then there's even less a chance that drugs are going to go into the toilet." These enforcement actions pose far less "danger to human life," says McNamara, but do require more extensive investigation and surveillance. "Wait for the guy to go out" to serve the warrant, he says. "If he really is making money, he'll have to spend it someplace."

McNeill says that his officers consider carefully every case before deciding which tactics they'll use to execute a warrant and that his officers are well-trained and often consult with the SWAT team. "You look at the totality of the circumstances, and we certainly want to bring it to a conclusion that is as safe as possible. You develop your game plan and look at all your options and strategies," he says. In fact, McNeill says, APD officers have employed the kind of strategies championed by Klinger, Cole, and McNamara. "We've sat outside [on surveillance] waiting for people to leave for days and … sometimes the resources are an issue," McNeill says – including, presumably, the cost of overtime for investigators – although he insists that the "cost of the operation" does not "govern" their choice of approach: "We always put safety out in the forefront of what we do. [But] at some point you have to execute the warrant."

Quality of Life

In the last analysis, it's not at all clear how effective such warrant operations are in actually deterring the illicit drug trade. "The thing is, it is a business model based on supply and demand – as long as there is a demand, someone is going to take care of the supply," says McNeill. "I liken it to a fire-ant mound – you take care of one, and then two or three more suddenly appear." On that point, it seems, everyone agrees. For McNamara, Cole, and Klinger, that reality has actually worked to change their opinions about the Drug War in general and about Drug War policing in particular. "It shows you how the 'duty to protect' is so twisted to put a higher premium on seizing dope, when you know that the next day two more dealers will be there to take over for the guy they arrested," says McNamara. In the Rosales case – or, really, in any such operation – McNamara says that there is really only one question police should answer: "Does this raid mean that the level of drug use will go down in this community?" he asks. "If they answer honestly, they'll say, 'Maybe, temporarily.'"

McNeill won't discuss details of the Rosales case in particular but says that when police "have a proactive stance [on drug enforcement], you may make more of a difference." Ultimately, he says, his job is to "enforce the laws," not to decide whether drugs should be legal. "When I took over [the] organized crime [unit], I said we're going to serve all warrants," regardless of the size or scope of the suspected drug operation. "A drug house in a neighborhood – what some call 'quality of life' warrants – [regardless of] whether there is a little bit [of drugs] or a major amount, those folks that live in that neighborhood do not deserve to have that element in their neighborhood," he says. "When that comes to our attention, we have an obligation, a commitment, to investigate." ■

AUSTIN 2008 WALL CALENDAR EVENT GUIDE
With over 200 of Austin's most popular festivals, events and activities – already on your calendar!
• 10% of the profits donated to Keep Austin Beautiful
• Made by Austinites
Check out our San Antonio Calendar too!
Buy online today at: www.AustinFunStuff.com
FREE Shipping Offer for a limited time.

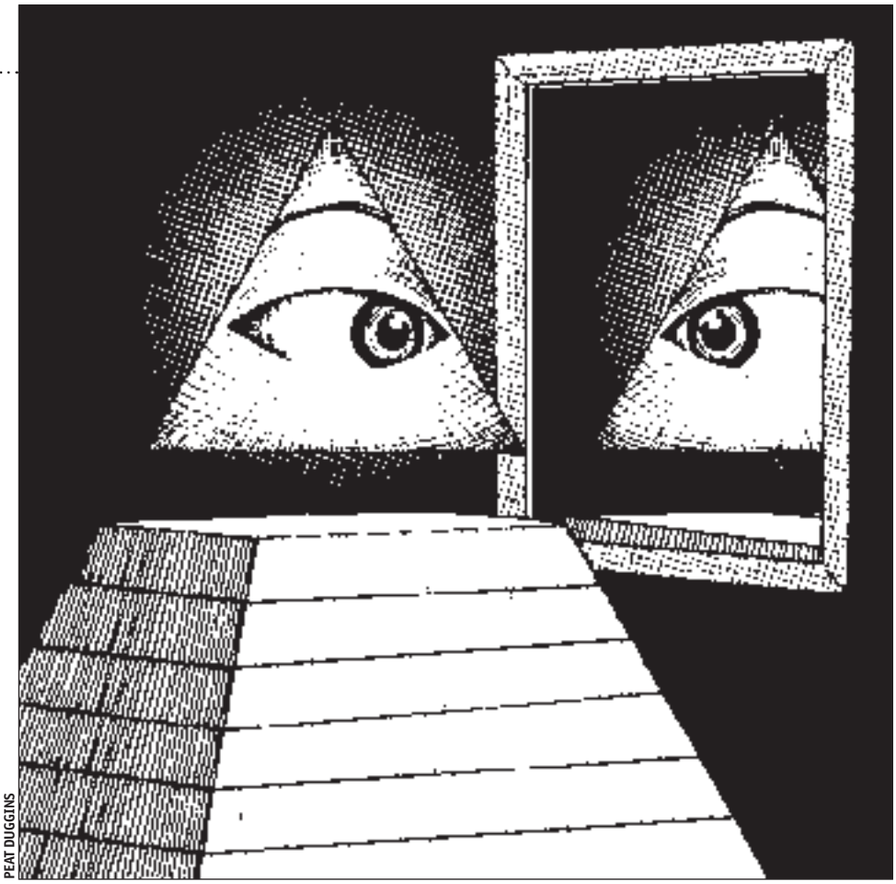
ecco
$99.90
Reg. $149.90
Rust, Brown, Black
FUSION SLIP ON
Men's Contemporary Comfort Walking Shoe
Great Cushioning
Longwearing Soles
SHOE BOXES
Austin's Affordable Fashion Boutique
Across from Northcross Mall • 323-0554
www.shoeboxesaustin.com
Fitting shoes since 1976
The Fitting Stool
Barton Creek Mall • 328-0682

Perfect Holiday Presents
$194.95
Dell GX260 P4 2.0GHz, 256Mb RAM, 40Gb HDD, Windows 2000 Installed 15" Monitor, Keyboard & Mouse
17" Flat Panel Included!
$324.95
Compaq D530 P4 2.4GHz, 512Mb RAM, 40Gb HDD, Windows XP Pro Installed 17" Flat Panel Monitor Keyboard & Mouse
$394.95
$94.95
Dell Complete PC Package Windows 2000 Installed Monitor, Keyboard & Mouse
PC DVD/CDRW Drive $19.95
Dell Wireless Keyboard & Mouse $18.95
Samsung 173P 17" Flat Panel $134.59
$274.95
Dell Latitude C600 P3 1Ghz 256Mb RAM, 30Gb HDD Windows 2000 Pro Installed
$124.95
Gateway Solo 5300 P3 600MHz, 128Mb RAM CLEARANCE PRICED
Burnet Rail-Road 183/Research Corporate Center Putnam
Turn at the tall, brown, brick sign that has 8868 on it.
OfficeOne
8868 Research Blvd #204
Between Burnet & Putnam
Monday-Saturday 10am-7pm
Closed Nov. 22nd & 23rd
608-0800
We Guarantee All of Our Products & Service! 90 Day Parts & Labor Warranty on EVERYTHING!

HOLIDAY SAVINGS
Batteries for all those holiday toys!
BatteriesPlus
AUSTIN (South) 2300 S. Lamar 512.416.1191
AUSTIN (North) 7915 Burnet Road 512.419.7587
ROUND ROCK 116 Sundance Pkwy. 512.600.7800
Mon-Fri 8:00 - 7:00, Sat 8:00 - 6:00, Sun 12:00 - 5:00
$5.00 OFF Digital Camera Battery
Not valid with any other offers. Present coupon at time of purchase. Limit 1 per customer. Expires 03.01.08 AC-M01
BatteriesPlus
www.batteriesplus.com

'Zeroville,' Raucously

BY MICHAEL VENTURA



PEAT DUGGINS

Steve Erickson is my dear friend, and the finest novelist of my generation. He's a reticent guy. Oh, we've talked a lot, but about movies, books, music, politics, relationships. Me, I also rant about my psyche, the meaning of my life, and the like. Not Steve. My ranting makes him laugh, and that's fun, but his psyche, the meaning of his life, uh-uh. Yet there's one subject we're both reticent about: writing. (We bitch about it, but that's different.) Sometimes, obliquely, one of us says something about writing in a kind of code, a sentence obscure to others because it's in the particular context of our friendship. Only when one of us finishes a manuscript do we speak of writing in detail. "This works; maybe this doesn't; you lose me here; it's overkill here" – matters of technique. Or it can be: "I've been worried about you. After reading this, I'm not worried anymore." We've both had occasion to say that kind of thing. We sometimes take each other's advice, sometimes not. (All Steve said about the first draft of my first novel was, "Cut it by half." I increased it by a third.) But stuff like the meaning of our work, its inspiration, the meaning that may or may not be inherent in our vastly different styles – we've never spoken of such stuff.

(Footnote: I don't mean to suggest I'm Steve's equal as a novelist. I'm not even close. But I can be a useful sounding board sometimes.)

Our careers as writers – we don't talk about that. I learned *Our Ecstatic Days* sold fewer than 2,000 copies from a recent article in the *Los Angeles Times*, not from Steve. Nor did Steve ever mention that four of his novels have been on *The New York Times* list of Notable Books of the Year; I found out from the publicity sheet that came with my publisher's copy of his new novel, *Zeroville*. (I couldn't have learned it from *The New York Times*, as Steve knows. I don't read lit critics anymore – for reasons that will be clear in a bit.)

A year ago October, Steve sent me the manuscript of *Zeroville*. I read it in a night, laughing out loud over and over, thrilling at its brilliance, damn near crying in the places where it broke my heart – and proud, proud of this man, three masterpieces in a row (and I don't say "masterpiece" lightly). The duet of *The Sea Came in at Midnight* and *Our Ecstatic Days*, and now *Zeroville*. Upon finishing, I got very happily drunk, sang songs, woke the neighbors. (I get raucous about great writing.)

But one piece of my advice Steve should never have taken. It's this way:

A few days ago I got an e-mail – not from Steve – saying *The New York Times* gave *Zeroville* a great Sunday review. So I did what I usually wouldn't: go online and read the review. Beneath a nifty drawing, it says *Zeroville* is a "funny, disturbing, daring and demanding novel – Erickson's best." I yelp like a sled-dog, howl like a coyote, and (in the wee hours, inconsiderate of neighbors) I yell, "FINALLY the frackin' *New York Times* comes through!" Then I read the review again. "Stop the bus. What about Abraham and Isaac?" No mention that this darkly hilarious Hollywood fable is also a really dark (but, in the end, shining) vision of modern monotheism's founding myth, the story of Abraham and Isaac. You think you'd notice this when, four pages in, the protagonist – whose nickname is Vikar, but whose given name is Isaac – says of Hollywood, "I've found a place where God does not kill children but is a Child Himself."

So I go online, read all the reviews I can find. 'Cause all lit crits can't be morons and ignoramuses, right? I mean, I'm glad the gal on the *Times* dug the book, but come on, it's a lit crit's job to do more than like or dislike, right? I found (mostly) wildly enthusiastic reviews from BookSlut.com, *The Washington Post*, MostlyFiction.com, *Entertainment Weekly*, TheFanzine.com, *The New Yorker* (dumb), *The Los Angeles Times* (favorable but superdumb), *San Francisco Chronicle*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, *The Seattle Times*, Toronto's *Globe and Mail* (really smart but nothing of Abraham and Isaac). Ah, *The New York Sun* mentions there's stuff about "Abrahamic religions," but that's as far as it goes; loves the book, and good for him.

By this time I'm liquored up, disturbing the neighbors again (unpleasantly). I go to *Zeroville*. For hours, I make a list of pages that accent and/or reference Abraham and Isaac (the novel starts, as many do, on p.15): 18, 20 (Vikar's given name, Ike – short for Isaac – is emphasized), 28 (given name again emphasized), 34-36 (blazing Technicolor can't-be-missed reference), 45, 50-51, 64, 81 (OK, this one's iffy), 98, 102-103, 105, 115, 119, 125, 139, 140 (iffy, maybe), 154, 170, 185 (a reminder that Vikar's name was once not even "Ike" but Isaac – OK, in case anyone forgot?), 206-207, 210, 216-217, 222-223, 224 (iffy), 240-242 (blazing Technicolor again, and the Abraham/Isaac tale is even briefly retold, making this a really-and-truly-cannot-be-missed reference), 251 (blazing black-and-white, a reprise of the blazing Technicolor on 34-36), 275, 276, 284 (sky-written in flames for all to see), 287, 299-300, 301 (iffy), 303, 310-311, another on 311 (maybe the weirdest), 312 (wow, that's all I got to say about that one!), 313, 319, 322 (vaguely), 327, 328-329 (and 329 is the very last page, and if those last two pages don't shine a bright light into your mind … well, read it again in a few years; some lights take awhile to shine at just that angle that sees into, illuminates, the mind. And some people take awhile to tilt their noggins in the beneficial direction).

One guy, bless him, Andrew Hultkrans, BookForum.com, his first sentence: "Fading in with an epigraph from Josef von Sternberg – 'I believe the cinema was here from the beginning of the world' – Steve Erickson adapts nearly the oldest story in the book (Abraham and Isaac), threads it through the projector through which all film history spins … [etc., very enthusiastic]." Fourteen lit crits. One got it. Some were smart (two, very smart); most were morons; one got it.

The joke is it's my fault. Steve knew (he'd never say, but he knew) he'd be lucky if one critic in 14 got it. His manuscript had, as prefacing quotes, the Josef von Sternberg line and two verses of Leonard Cohen's "Story of Isaac." I told him von Sternberg's line was so strong it should stand alone. The Cohen quote was overkill; readers couldn't help but get that the root of this comedy was Abraham and Isaac. But his first instinct was right. He trusts

Latte Dolls
HOT COFFEE HOTTER BABES
An Austin-owned coffee shop combating corporate coffee two double "D" cups at a time!
FAIR TRADE CERTIFIED
IN THE AUSTIN PIZZA PARKING LOT
1817 S LAMAR, LATTEDOLLSAUSTIN.COM

MADE IN THE USA 20% OFF WITH THIS COUPON*
Representing over 100 local artists!
Lucky Lizard
Curios & Gifts
Featuring
MUSEUM OF THE WEIRD
412 E. 6th Street • 512-476-5493 • luckylizard.net

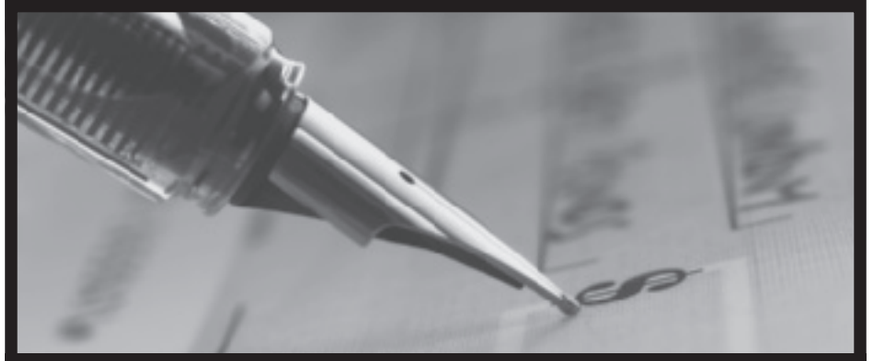
HOLIDAY SALE
Up to 75% off
asianlivingimports.com
323-5495
漢坊
Asian Living
2135 W. Anderson Ln. (North Star Home Center @ Burnet & Anderson Ln.)

his readers, or he wouldn't write the way he does. But he knows better than to trust the mostly mal-educated, I'm-articulate-so-I-must-be-intelligent ignoramuses who write about books. (I also suggested he change the title, and he said I didn't get it. It's a terrific title, what was I thinking?!)

OK, let's try lit crit in two paragraphs. The founding story of modern monotheism is about a god who'd ask you to kill your kid. You, superidiot, believe in this god more than in your kid. Just as you're about to kill your kid, the god says, "Stand down. I just needed to make sure you'd do it if I said to." After this royal mindfuck, this god claims you need redemption! Vikar won't accept a god who commands that we kill children, even if the command is a cosmic joke and even if that god is the capital-G God! (I'm with him all the way on that.) Vikar thinks that the phenomenon of cinema is, itself, the key – not to "the meaning of life" but to what humans are. He takes a funny, quixotic journey of twists and turns in which nothing is predictable but, at the end, every move seems inevitable. Also, you meet a woman named Soledad Palladin. She may be the illegitimate daughter of Luis Buñuel. If you've never known anyone remotely like her, you have my sympathy. And, every page needs to be there. You can't take one page out of this book; every single word is necessary. When was the last time you read anything so well-crafted?

What *Zeroville* is about (far more so than *Finnegans Wake*, and funnier – the way Buster Keaton is funnier and more profound than D.W. Griffith) is a verbal model of monotheistic consciousness. I shout (waking the neighbors again). "NOT a rendition or a treatise, a MODEL!" It's about how one's perception, like it or not, is sublimely undermined – if not driven stark staring mad – by monotheism. Which is why lit crits – blind, cowardly, creepy buggers that most of them are – either couldn't see what was going on ('cause monotheism programs itself not to see itself), or could not/would not admit what it saw. And hey, you can be an atheist or whatever, but if you grew up in a monotheistic culture, you have a monotheistic consciousness, I promise. *Zeroville* also is a fable, an urban folktale – often hilarious, sometimes heartbreaking – about how much shit you have to go through to see, to really see, how monotheism screws up your consciousness and to begin to experience what consciousness might be like without it.

Great stocking stuffer for Christmas. ■



HOW TO WRITE YOUR OWN HEARTWARMING HOLIDAY STORY.

If Charles Dickens were living in Austin today, he would wonder if we all identified with Scrooge more than Tiny Tim. When it comes to charitable giving, Austin ranks **48th out of 50** among cities our size. Let's get our pens and checkbooks, pick a good cause and help make a difference. **After all, it's all about giving, right?**

I LIVE HERE, I GIVE HERE

TO LEA... ...ORG

FALL INTO AUTUMN WITH
* LOWLIGHTS OR HIGHLIGHTS
* NEW FALL COLORS FOR 2007-2008
* BRING IN THIS AD AND GET $20 OFF WITH ANY FULL COLOR SERVICE PURCHASE

HURRY! APPOINTMENTS LIMITED. 442-5595

book now! 442-5595

WALK-INS WELCOME BUT APPTS. PREFERRED

Perez Salon
5311 s. congress
4 miles south of downtown
www.socosalon.com

POWER STONES
EVOKING ANCIENT FOLKLORES OF
COURAGE • CLARITY • STRENGTH
BALANCE AND HEALING

only at
CRYSTAL WORKS
12th and Lamar behind the Tavern 472.5597

SARAH & ERNEST BUTLER HOLIDAY POPS

THE AUSTIN SYMPHONY

PRESENTS

Simply Sinatra

FEATURING STEVE LIPPIA

DECEMBER 30 & 31
8:00 P.M.
PALMER EVENTS CENTER

CONCERT SPONSOR: Mercedes-Benz of Austin
SEASON SPONSOR: JPMorganChase
MEDIA SPONSORS: News 8 Austin, Time Warner Cable, The Statesman statesman.com, Majic 95.5

512.476.6064 ~ 1.888.4.MAESTRO
WWW.AUSTINSYMPHONY.ORG

CELEBRATE THIS HOLIDAY WEEK AT ZACH!

Created and Directed by
DAVE STEAKLEY

ROCKIN' CHRISTMAS PARTY
THE ROCK-N-SOUL FAMILY MUSICAL!

Hurry! Final Two Weeks for
ROCKIN & PLAID TIDINGS!

Join ZACH's Jingle Belles as they shake, rattle and roll down Santa Claus Lane for the Ho-Ho-Holidays.

DAVID SEDARIS'
The SantaLand Diaries

Thru Jan. 6th!

Directed by **Dave Steakley**

Starring **MARTIN BURKE!**

Photos by: Kirk R. Tuck

Holiday tales and songs – more naughty than nice – guaranteed to delight adult audiences.

The **HEAVENLY HARMONY** quartet FOREVER PLAID is back with more swingin' holiday favorites!

Forever Plaid presents Plaid Tidings
A Special Holiday Edition

By Stuart Ross
Directed by
Robin Lewis

GREAT FAMILY FUN!
Specially Priced 'Plaid Tidings'
YOUTH Tickets Available!

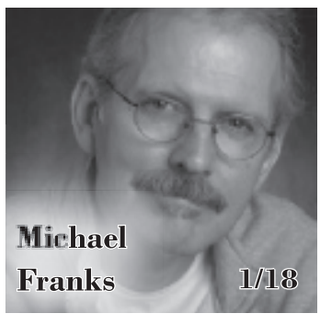
CHARGE TICKETS BY PHONE! 476-0541, x1 OR ZACHSCOTT.COM
Great Group Discounts for Eight or More! Call Amanda at x221

All Tickets on Sale Now!

Buy Ticket Packages by Dec. 21 for Priority Seating

One World Theatre

2008 Season



Michael Franks 1/18

Jerry Jeff Walker & Band 2/2

George Winston 2/13, 14 & 15

R Carlos Nakai & Udi Bar-David 2/22

www.oneworldtheatre.org

The Following Shows Presented by:

Hartt & Soul Productions

Michael Franks	1/18
Jerry Jeff Walker & Band	2/2
George Winston	2/13, 14 & 15
R Carlos Nakai & Udi Bar-David	2/22
Jesse Cook	3/9
Boney James	3/21
Acoustic Alchemy	4/18
Leon Russell	4/20
Hugh Masekela	4/29
Tower of Power	5/4
Colin Hay	6/21

The Following Shows Presented by:

One World

Alisa Weilerstein	2/5
Gabriela Montero	4/6

KIDS SERIES

Aesop's Fables	1/26
Hartt & Iluminada	2/23
Henry & Mudge	3/29

For Tickets Call (512) 32-WORLD

or 888-512-SHOW Front Gate Tickets www.frontgatetickets.com

Austin American-Statesman statesman.com
Musicmaker Rentals
Holland Photo Imaging
kut 90.5
KLBJ 590 AM 97.1 FM

This project is funded in part by the City of Austin through the Cultural Arts Division and by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts.

the arts

46 REFLECTIONS IN A BLANK WALL **48** AFTER A FASHION **50** BOOKS **80** ARTS LISTINGS

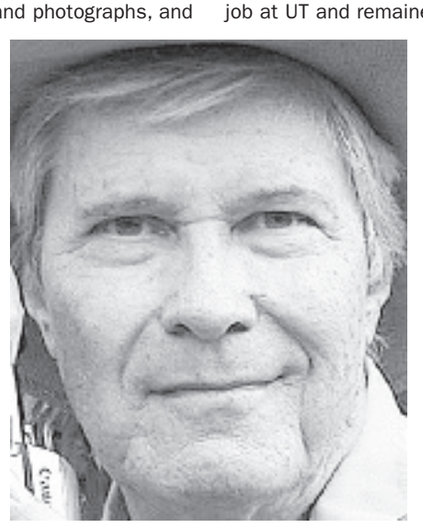
UT College of Fine Arts Dempster named dean

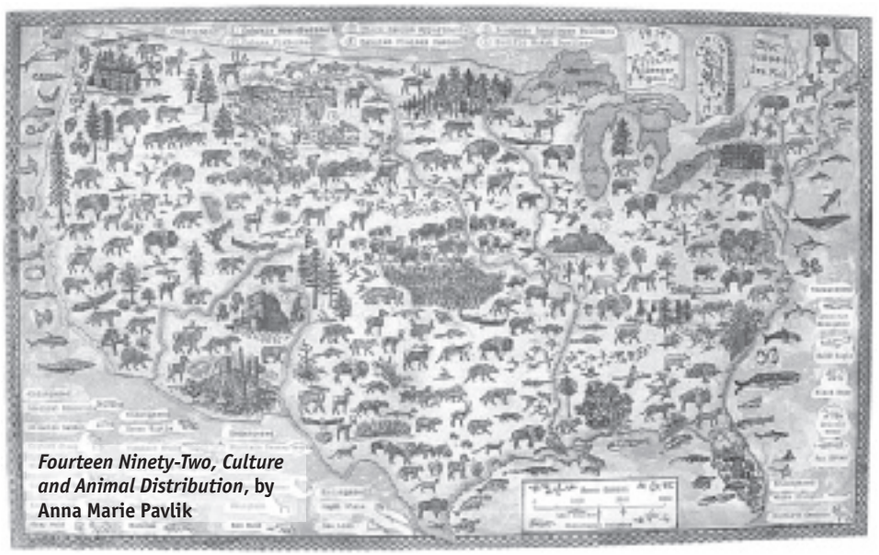
At last, Doug Dempster can take that pesky "interim" out of his job title. The University of Texas professor has been running the College of Fine Arts over on the 40 Acres since the retirement of previous Dean Robert Freeman in August 2006, but in an acting capacity, while the university undertook a national search for a permanent successor. Dempster had a lot to recommend him for the job, not the least of which was the five years he spent as the college's senior associate dean before stepping into the dean's shoes last year. In that position, he took a lead role in boosting the funds spent by the college on scholarships and teaching assistants, getting the college to place greater emphasis on arts education, seeing that the Fine Arts Library got a technological upgrade, and getting the Blanton Museum of Art more operational support. And before he came to Austin, Dempster spent 18 years at the Eastman School of Music, where he served as Humanities Department chair and dean of academic affairs and designed and directed the Arts Leadership Program, a professional development curriculum. Recognizing what they had, the UT powers-that-be decided that the best man for the dean's office was the one already in it and confirmed Dempster as permanent dean last week. In commenting on the appointment, UT President William Powers Jr. applauded Dempster's "keen understanding of the value and importance of the arts on our campus and their vital connection to our local community and the larger society." – *Robert Faires*

Doug Dempster

GIBBS MILLIKEN IN MEMORIAM

Belated condolences to the family, friends, and former students of Gibbs Milliken, one of the University of Texas Art Department's most adventurous instructors, who passed away on Nov. 20 following a long bout with cancer. He was 71. As an artist, Milliken spent his share of time in the studio, working on paintings, drawings, and photographs, and he logged more than four decades in the classrooms at UT. (Milliken taught this writer life-drawing back in the late Seventies.) But he was perhaps most at home in the great outdoors, and his love of nature took him far afield of his native Texas, to the rainforest of the Amazon and the jungles of Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean islands. He studied the rock and cave art of Amazon tribes in Venezuela and pre-Columbian survival traits of Latin American Indians and became familiar enough with tropical botany to serve as director of the Organization for Tropical Research and Exploration. His travels abroad served not only as inspiration for his art but made for many wild and woolly anecdotes, which he shared with his students and colleagues as well as his loved ones. The artist's early years were spent in Houston, but he grew up in Kerrville, where he graduated from the Schreiner Institute. He obtained his bachelor's degree from Trinity University in San Antonio and his master's from Michigan's Cranbrook Academy of Art in 1965. Upon returning to Texas, Milliken got a job at UT and remained there until his retirement in 2006. In addition to his work at the university, Milliken worked as an artist with the NASA Apollo space program and the NASA Tektite II underseas project, and he had a long association with the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, serving as a field photographer and outdoor-products field tester. (He was a world-class fly-fisherman, in addition to everything else.) His images and writing appeared in the department's magazine for years, right through the summer of 2007. Milliken is survived by his wife, Marie; daughter Tamara and her husband, Dwight; daughter Adana and her husband, Mike; grandsons David and Paul Gipson; and sister Alice Milliken Combs. Contributions may be made to the Gibbs Milliken Scholarship Fund in the UT Department of Art and Art History. – *R.F.*





***Fourteen Ninety-Two, Culture and Animal Distribution*, by Anna Marie Pavlik**

CULTURE FLASH!

▶ Printmakers **Anna Marie Pavlik** and **Matt Rebholz** have both had prints purchased for the permanent collection of the Springfield Art Museum in Springfield, Mo. Pavlik's *Fourteen Ninety-Two, Culture and Animal Distribution* and Rebholz's *Chapter V* in his series *The Golem* are both included in "Prints U.S.A. 2007," a national competitive exhibition that recognizes and encourages printmaking in the U.S., which has been showing at the museum since Nov. 17. The exhibition continues through Jan. 6.

▶ Ballet Austin's **Cookie Ruiz** is the recipient of this year's Beverly Sheffield Award, recognizing excellence in executive directors. Sheffield was the first executive director of the Austin Community Foundation, which administers funds, invests assets, and makes grants to charitable organizations locally. The award in his honor is presented at ACF's annual gala, which was held this year at the Four Seasons Hotel on Nov. 7. Commenting on the honor, MariBen Ramsey, the foundation's interim executive director, praised Ruiz's "vision and grace, as well as her optimism and unfailing work ethic."

▶ The city of Austin wants *your* art to show off in City Hall. The fourth annual **People's Gallery** exhibition, featuring two- and three-dimensional works in any medium from area artists, is scheduled to open Feb. 22, with work displayed throughout our seat of local government for a full year. For submission procedures, go to the Art in Public Places website, **www.cityofaustin.org/aipp**. All applications must be submitted via the ASAP! online public-art application system. Deadline is Friday, Jan. 4. Art will be chosen by a panel of arts professionals in January. The current 2007 exhibition continues through Jan. 31.

▶ The city's **Art in Public Places** program is seeking artists to design a shade structure for the **Mexican American Cultural Center**'s zocalo – the plaza facing Lady Bird Lake. The artist(s) will work collaboratively with the MACC design team (CasaBella Architects, architect Teodoro González de León, and the landscape architects) and must work within a budget of $200,000, which includes design fees, fabrication, installation, engineer-sealed drawings, insurance, and travel. For project description and request for qualifications, visit **www.cityofaustin.org/aipp**. All applications and digital images must be made through the ASAP! online public-art application system. Deadline for submissions is Friday, Jan. 4. – *R.F.*

Paramount Theatre A million in its stocking

The Paramount Theatre may have *White Christmas* on the screen, but it's definitely a *green* Christmas for the beloved old opera house. That's because the Neil and Elaine Griffin Foundation is giving the Paramount a $1 million grant, the biggest chunk of change that the theatre has ever received. Ken Stein, executive director of the Austin Theatre Alliance, which runs both the Paramount and State theatres, plans to apply some of the funds toward upkeep on the 92-year-old venue. "This gift will allow us to assess the big picture for restoring the Paramount," Stein says. "Instead of fixing the roof one year and the air conditioning the next, we'll be able to bring in restoration experts and architects to create a plan for ensuring the theatre will be here forever."

That's important to Richard Griffin, who landed this historic prize in the Paramount's stocking. "An old theatre like this cannot be replaced, and Austin would be a less desirable city without it," he says. Griffin and his wife, Amy, became fans of the theatre after moving to Austin from Kerrville, and in addition to serving on the ATA board, Griffin had helped secure it some smaller donations from the Neil and Elaine Griffin Foundation. But the time was right, he felt, for a major boost. "Amy and I wanted the theatre's staff to know that we believed in their work and wanted to give them an opportunity to take their efforts to the next level," he says. "I hope this gift will serve as a catalyst for larger gifts to this worthy organization." That's actually part of the plan: The grant requires that half the amount be matched with other private donations, but the alliance has two years to raise those funds. For more information, call 472-5470 or visit **www.austintheatre.org**. – *R.F.*

Reflections in a Blank Wall

Florian Slotawa's exhibition tells us more about Arthouse than the artist

JOHN ANDERSON

BY RACHEL COOK

Sometimes an artist imports his practice into a space to create what is typically referred to as a site-specific installation. He utilizes the actual walls of the exhibition space as elements within the installation, adding or subtracting elements, shifting walls, floors, or even ceilings to create a world filled with his colors, sounds, movements, and textures. Acting much more along the lines of a theatrical designer or art director in a film, the artist brings his installation to life in the exhibition space. Yet sometimes an artist comes into a space by infiltrating it from the inner structure out, not only rearranging objects but also confronting the edifice and logic put into place by the institution itself.

Berlin-based Florian Slotawa gets to the core of the organization Arthouse with his first U.S. solo exhibition, "One After the Other," currently on view in the organization's home at 700 Congress. What might at first seem like a blank show with no tangible work is, in fact, Slotawa's sleight of hand: the artist shifting the architecture of the galleries' walls, cutting an opening in the ceiling, blocking the traditional entrance of the exhibition space. He peels back the layers of the wall to expose the past and then creates a portal through the ceiling into the future – all of which forces the organization to look at itself both structurally and historically. The building where Arthouse is located has a long history on the 700 block of Congress. It has been there since 1851 – predating both the state Capitol, which was completed in 1888, and the University of Texas, on which construction began in 1882. First, the building was home to a drugstore, Tobin's; then, most notably, it housed one of the first movie theatres in Austin, L.L. Hegman's Queen Theater. Then, Lerner Shops, a women's department store, occupied the building for 40 years, until finally in 1995, the Texas Fine Arts Association (Arthouse's former name) purchased the building and turned it into a visual arts space.

From the moment you walk into Arthouse, Slotawa transforms your path, forcing you to travel to the back of the building to enter the exhibition. With this simple shift, he takes you back in time, past a mural on the wall from when Arthouse was the Queen. From there, he takes you through a maze of blank white walls in a bizarre configuration that has no exit except the way you entered; I found this slightly problematic because I wanted to be led out in a different direction. Eventually, you arrive in front of a wooden staircase leading to a small portal through which you may view the second floor of the building. The space is vacant now, but Arthouse is working with the design firm Lewis.Tsurumaki. Lewis to develop the building's upper levels into artists' studios, a 6,000-square-foot gallery, a multipurpose community room, and a rooftop terrace; it's where the future of Arthouse is going. Viewing the vast empty space while standing on the wooden staircase with half of your body in the space above and the other half still in the space below feels similar to entering a tree house that you can't climb all the way into. You are only allowed to imagine what it would feel like to explore and touch the walls filled with remnants of the past history of the building.

So in essence, Slotawa's site-specific installation extends beyond the walls of the exhibition area of Arthouse into the offices, the bathrooms, and rooftop, etc. Driving by, I find myself admiring the building as a whole and evaluating the plot of land that the building at 700 Congress occupies as one giant sculpture. One of Slotawa's most successful installations was in Germany at Bonner Kunstverein, an organization with very little in the way of resources but an enormous exhibition area. Slotawa told me that when he first visited the venue, he was struck by how congested the offices were and how much they had stacked and packed everywhere, so he decided to move the overcrowded administrative offices into the massive gallery space and put his exhibition in their moderate-sized office spaces. Slotawa seems to get himself into situations like this quite frequently; he'll be invited to do a show by an institution that perhaps has an idea or expectation of what he will create, and, almost to spite them, he'll take the equation and spin it on its head. With the exhibition described above, he not only made the organizers move their offices but also told them that while they were in this giant exhibition space, maybe they should throw out and organize some of their stuff. Maybe the artist becomes the best evaluator of the institution.

It is fitting for Arthouse to allow an artist to take over the entire building as a way to evaluate the organization as a whole. In choosing Slotawa for her debut as Arthouse's new curator, Elizabeth Dunbar has not only commissioned a bold new site-specific work; she has also helped create a clean slate in terms of Arthouse's curatorial focus. The organization that Arthouse grew out of was founded in 1911 to promote art activity throughout the state, so its focus then was supporting and promoting Texas art. As the state has changed over the decades, so has the organization's focus. In recent years, Arthouse has broadened its focus to contemporary art outside Texas as well as inside it, as seen through a programming mix of traveling shows, open juried exhibitions, annual fundraisers, and the biennial Arthouse Texas prize exhibition, with a relative handful of exhibitions curated in-house by key staff members, such as Regine Basha, who, during her four-year stint as adjunct curator, was responsible for such shows as "The Gospel of Lead: Dario Robleto and Jeremy Blake" and "Daniel Bozhkov: Recent Works." While the blank walls and lack of intervention will most likely confuse viewers who walk through the space, this may be Dunbar's way of bringing the focus back to the organization itself and where it has been and where it is going. What does it mean "to promote the growth and appreciation of contemporary art" and "to deepen the public's understanding of contemporary art," as Arthouse's mission states? That's the question raised by this exhibition, and only time will tell how the organization will answer it. ■

What might seem like a blank show with no tangible work is, in fact, Slotawa's sleight of hand: the artist shifting the architecture of the space to expose the structure's past and create a portal into Arthouse's future.

"Florian Slotawa: One After the Other" is on view through Jan. 13 at Arthouse, 700 Congress. For more information, call 453-5312 or visit **www.arthousetexas.org**.

AMOA

AUSTIN MUSEUM OF ART

NEED CREATIVE, LAST MINUTE HOLIDAY GIFTS?
SHOP AT THE AMOA MUSEUM STORE!

MENTION THIS AD FOR A 15% DISCOUNT THROUGH DEC. 31, 2007

shop
AMOA MUSEUM STORE

GET THE PERFECT GIFT FOR THAT SPECIAL SOMEONE AND SAVE MONEY!

ON VIEW DOWNTOWN: ***Roy Lichtenstein Prints 1956-97***

AUSTIN MUSEUM OF ART

Downtown • 823 Congress Ave.
Suite 100 • Austin, TX 78701
512.495.9224 • www.amoa.org

Tuesday–Saturday 10–6
Thursday 10–8
Sunday Noon–5

Extra-Ordinary is organized by the Whitney Museum of American Art. At AMOA, Fidelity Investments is the Underwriting Sponsor. Additional support is provided by Carol and Adam Wagner. ▼ The Austin Museum of Art 2007 Exhibition Sponsors are Berman Family Foundation, Michael A. Chesser, Luanne and Charlie Cullen, Green Family Foundation, Mattsson-McHale Foundation, Bettye and Bill Nowlin, Still Water Foundation, Vinson & Elkins LLP, and Joan Hohlt and J. Roger Wich Foundation. ▼ 2007 Education Outreach is generously supported by 3M, James Armstrong, Bank of America, Katelena Hernandez Cowles and James Cowles, Kathy and David Escobedo, Tomas Estebes and Riley Estebes de Silva, A Look...for Love Foundation, Institute of Museum and Library Services, Kate Ludeman and Eddie Erlandson, Mattsson-McHale Foundation, The Moody Foundation, Nordstrom, Bettye and Bill Nowlin, donors to the Education Fund and the Laura W. Bush Endowment for Education and Outreach. ▼ The Austin Museum of Art is funded in part by The Austin Fine Arts Alliance, Museum Trustees, Members, and Patrons. Additional support is provided by the City of Austin through the Cultural Arts Division and by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts and support from the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art.

TEXAS COMMISSION ON THE ARTS FORTY YEARS
Cultural Arts Division

AFTER A FASHION

BY STEPHEN MACMILLAN MOSER

THE CIRCUIT Party, party, party. Sounds glam, right? It's not. It's work – a drudgery involving far too much preparation (45 minutes for jewelry application alone) and far too many one-of-a-kind outfits. Of course the big parties are great but offer far more opportunities for public embarrassment, even if you haven't been … uh … overserved. A simple step back sent me tumbling backward down a couple of stairs in a heap of embarrassment at a large club; fortunately there was not a cocktail in my hand, or I would have been a wet heap of embarrassment. But not as embarrassed as the young woman perched on a railing at another party who threw her head back to do a shot and went over the railing, making sure everyone knew she had a new Brazilian wax job. At another affair, an inebriated guest spilled so much red wine on the carpet that it looked like the aftermath in the **LaBianca** mansion. More charming and less dramatic was ***The Austin Chronicle***'s holiday party – great food, great spirits, great company. And yes, I bawled like a baby when my sister **Margaret**, **Barbara Chisholm**, and **Kate Messer** did a karaoke version of "To Sir With Love" and dedicated it to me. The **Broken Spoke** party was the one I loved best. Owner **James White** and I compared glittery Western shirts – his was *much* more fabulous than mine, and James' tough-as-nails but sweet-as-a-pussycat wife, **Annetta**, made sure everyone was relaxed and well taken care of in the Broken Spoke's old-fashioned and always-hospitable style.

SEABROOK/JUICYTHIS.COM

Ken Stein, the emperor of the Paramount and all he surveys, plays Santa to loyal Paramount supporters and staffers, including Paramount marketing director Stacy Fellers.

SCOTT MOSER

Annetta and James White, owners of the Broken Spoke, along with Jason Crow (son of Alvin) at the Broken Spoke's private Christmas party

ART GUAJARDO

Dévushka heats up the resort-wear runway with sizzling retro-inspired confections that bring out your inner-Rita Hayworth.

DIVOON I wound up at **Vicci** on Friday for a fashion show. Now, you may remember me railing against Vicci a few weeks ago, when we felt like we were being treated like criminals simply for being there. However, on this occasion we were treated *very* cordially by several staff members who remembered me from the last time. The guard at the VIP entrance was courteous and let us through without too much drama, and by the time we left through Vicci's red-carpet back-alley exit, the recent rain had washed away all the smells of vomit and urine. So indeed, I was much happier with Vicci this time around. And *especially* happy with the fashion show, which, as you know, is not one of my primary reactions to fashion shows. OK, the dirt. The company is called **Dévushka** (**www.devushkadesign.com**), owned by **Kimberly**

InStep
DIFFERENT. LIKE YOU.

Dressy Comfort.

Memory Foam Cushions Forefoot and Heel.

Flexible Latex Soles.

Walking and Standing in Style!

Clarks ENGLAND

www.instepaustin.com

CENTRAL STORE
1010 W. 38th St.
(Behind Relax the Back)
476-5110

NO RTH STORE
9901 Capital of Texas Highway
(Close to Whole Foods)
346-4400

ATOMIC CITY
SHOES & GIFTS JAPANESE TOYS

Check Our List for all your Holiday Gifts

SHOES
☐ John Fluevog® ☐ Gola®
☐ GripFast® ☐ Frye® ☐ T.U.K.®
☐ Lucky Lou® ☐ Creepers®

CLOTHING
☐ Punk Rock T-Shirts
☐ 50s-Style DaVinci's
☐ Hawaiian Shirts
☐ Gama-Go (Men's & Women's)
☐ Rock Mount Western Shirts
☐ Rat Fink T-Shirts

TOYS
☐ Godzilla ☐ Tin Retro
☐ Sea Monkeys ☐ Kit Cat Klocks
☐ Ugly Dolls ☐ Rat Fink

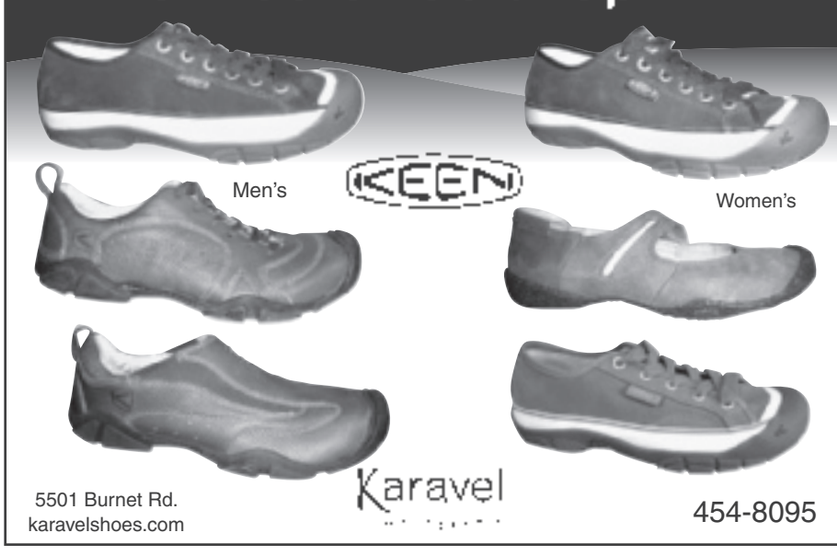
MISCELLANEOUS
☐ Zippos ☐ Sailor Jerry-Glassware
☐ Tattoo Books ☐ Outsider Art Books
☐ Tiki Farm ☐ Blue Q Soaps
☐ Hot Rod Books
☐ Studded Leather Belts
☐ Special Effects Hair Color
☐ Movie Poster Repros

1700 San Antonio • 477-0293
www.citysearch.com/aus/atomiccity
CALL FOR HOLIDAY HOURS

Amy's Skin Care
Specializing in Clinical Skin Care & Body Waxing
▪ FREE BROW WAX valued at $15
▪ $35 BRAZILIAN WAX Regularly $50
▪ $35 MICRO-DERMABRASION WITH MACHINE Regularly $75
Coupon good for NEW customers only
470-9944
PARK PROFESSIONAL BLDG. AT ST. DAVID'S
900 E. 30TH STREET, #203
WWW.AMYSSKINCARE.COM

SoLa
CLOTHING ACCESSORIES GIFTS
2005 South Lamar
512. 441. 7370

new balance shop



Men's
KEEN
Women's
5501 Burnet Rd.
karavelshoes.com
Karavel
454-8095

Jaques and **Jenny Howe**. Perhaps more stylists than designers at this point (neither have professional apparel-design training), they *do* have an eye for style and glamour. To be fair, we did not see a wide range of styles, but what we did see was a simple, Forties-style dress à la **Dorothy Lamour** reinterpreted a dozen different ways, utilizing diverse fabrics and patterns to create varying looks. Great hair and make-up, some very good models, but the best thing? The best thing was the restraint the designers employed to keep the show short, sweet, and simple. *That*, boys and girls, is a rare gift: no mall-bred hip-hop dancers, no jugglers, fire-eaters, no trampy models yanking up their dresses to show everything the clothes are supposed to cover. An excellent debut of some very promising talent.

Write to our Style Avatar with your related events, news, and hautey bits: **style@austinchronicle.com** *or PO Box 49066, Austin, 78765 or 458-6910 (fax).*

SEW LIKE A PRO
• Classes
• Quality sewing equipment
• Notions & accessories
• Service on all brands
• Pre-owned machines
Keeping Austin in Stitches Since 1984
Sew Much More
3010 W. Anderson Lane
Austin, Texas • 512-452-3166
www.sewaustin.com

Happy holidays from the Lund family.
Carter Lund
HIGHLY TRAINED* PERSONAL STYLIST | FAMILY MAN
Trendz 996-0688
13048 NORTH HIGHWAY 183
*Vidal Sassoon- and Framesi-educated in Italian style
first time cut and color clients receive $40.00 worth of product

hair - makeup - waxing - nails - facials - body
AVEDA avant AvantSalon.com
downtown - 472-6357 Salons | Spa gateway - 502-8268
BEST OF AUSTIN '06 '04 '05
Gift Card Giveaway - all December
Receive a $10 bonus gift certificate for every $100 gift card purchased online or in-store

BORSALINO...BEAVER BRAND...KANGOL...GOORIN...BRONER
Hatbox
A Modern Haberdashery
HOLIDAY GIFT REGISTRY NOW AVAILABLE!
115 East Sixth St
Across from the Driskill Hotel
512.476.1203
www.hatbox.com
Formerly Vertigo Hats
NEW YORK HAT CO...DORFMAN PACIFIC...SCALA...RESISTOL

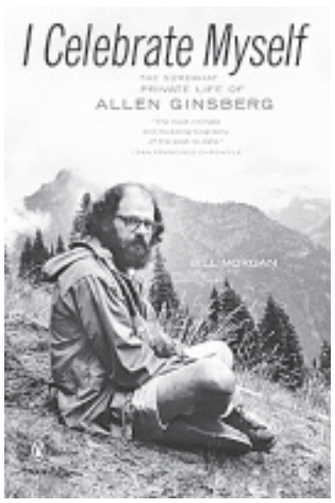
PLUMBLOSSOM WELLNESS
Barton Springs, Collier, South Lamar, Oltorf
purify your life
512.306.7344
1700 S. Lamar
{WELLNESS BOUTIQUE}
25% OFF ALL DR. HAUSCHKA
Makeup, Body & Skin Care!
Offer Exp. 12-22-07.
Shop our unique gift baskets featuring all-natural aromatherapy, bath & body, candles, books, meditation gifts and more!
{WELLNESS SERVICES}
OUR GIFT CERTIFICATES ARE PERFECT GIFTS
• Acupuncture
• Massage
• Jin Shin Jyutsu
• Rolfing®
• Facials
• Doula Services
• Chiropractic
plumblossomwellness.com

naughty.
Cindie's LINGERIE & GIFTS
#1 IN FANTASY & FUN AUSTIN • KILLEEN • HOUSTON
14106 N IH-35/NEXT TO CHAPARRAL ICE 512-670-7444
MON-SAT 9AM-12AM SUN 11AM-10PM
YOUR ONE STOP SHOP FOR ROMANCE, FUN, AND ENTERTAINMENT.
BACHELORETTE, LINGERIE, GAG GIFTS, ADULT MERCHANDISE
10% OFF WITH COUPON
CANNOT BE COMBINED WITH OTHER DISCOUNTS

I CELEBRATE MYSELF: THE SOMEWHAT PRIVATE LIFE OF ALLEN GINSBERG

by Bill Morgan
Penguin Books, 702 pp., $18 (paper)

Deconstructionist theory tells us that the work of mourning often includes the impossibility of speaking of and for the dead without interjecting oneself into the discourse. How does one work as a medium for the dead? How does one decide what to include and what to leave out? Decisions must be made in the work of citing and describing in order to create an ethical representation of the subject. Such is the major affliction of this massive biography of Allen Ginsberg, lovingly – nay, slavishly – assembled by Ginsberg's archivist, Bill Morgan, who had access to the influential poet's most intimate diaries. It appears that no decisions have been made and that the ethical decision was to include everything, which one might argue is a rather narcissistic move on Morgan's part. The result is a laborious read both fascinating and discomfiting: Does anyone really need to know that a school-aged Ginsberg was sexually aroused when watching his chums being bullied and pantsed in the school yard? Some things should stay in the archives. This is not to say that the work is uninteresting: Anyone with any interest in the inception and trajectory of the beats will relish the depth of representation of the relationships among the celebrated writers, what they were reading, whom they were fucking, and what they were smoking when they were doing it. Morgan leaves no stone unturned, revealing the evolution of Ginsberg's Buddhist practice and his long, troubled relationship with partner Peter Orlovsky. Most admirably, Morgan includes a marginal notation of what poems were written during each particular era of Ginsberg's life (each chapter covers a year in Ginsberg's life, hence the heftiness of the book), providing context for many of his works. Morgan's account of Ginsberg's final days is exhaustive and loving; he wants nothing left to the dustbin of history and so accounts for every phone call made, every chant chanted, every famous visitor to Ginsberg's New York deathbed. It is both admirable and exhausting, a triumph of the archive and of the archivist's work, which prompts the question: Who is the true "I" being celebrated in the book's title?

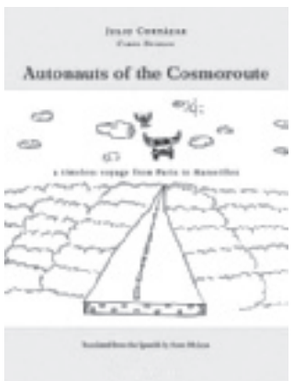


– *Melanie Haupt*

AUTONAUTS OF THE COSMOROUTE: A TIMELESS VOYAGE FROM PARIS TO MARSEILLES

by Julio Cortázar and Carol Dunlop, translated by Anne McLean
Archipelago Books, 354 pp. (illustrated), $20 (paper)

On May 23, 1982, Julio Cortázar and his wife, Carol Dunlop, left Paris and entered the Autoroute de Sud alongside countless other cars making the 10-hour drive to Marseilles. Cortázar and Dunlop did not arrive in Marseilles, however, until June 23. In the intervening month, the two explorers lived entirely on the highway. They ate, slept, wrote, and lived in the various rest stations, roadside refuges for weary travelers. They steered their camper van onward deliberately, never doubling back, at a pace of about two rest stations per day.



Autonauts of the Cosmoroute is a record of this adventure, cobbled together from fragments, mostly nonfictional, composed along the way. Photographs by Dunlop illustrate the roadside every day through which the two authors moved as interlopers. Most people on the autoroute did not take the time to notice or ask why the authors would attempt such a mission, and the few who did swiftly pronounced them crazy. The authors try to explain: "Somehow, to prove we could carry out this trip was to prove to ourselves that we had weapons against the gloom, not just in its large manifestations … but also in its more insidious expressions, the banality of daily commitments that mean nothing themselves but altogether distance us from the center where we hope to live our lives. … Not to live life in its truest way is a crime, not just against oneself, but against others as well."

Often, we cannot tell who is writing – the world-renowned Cortázar or his relatively less accomplished wife. In a few clearly attributable fragments, Cortázar is at the top of his lifelong game of looking for strange beauty in the mechanics of the everyday. Admirers of previous works *Hopscotch* and *Cronopios and Famas* will find many passages that alone justify this strange voyage. Dunlop, on the other hand, sometimes seems merely along for the ride, most comfortable writing affectionate notes about her husband. This is not to the book's detriment, however. As the adventure nears its end, we come to understand it more as a love story than an explorer narrative. Out of the impersonal, harried autoroute, Cortázar and Dunlop carved a private, intimate space of shared creation and discovery, making the most of their time together. An epilogue reveals a heartbreaking twist worthy of any novel – Dunlop died just a few months after the voyage was completed, and Cortázar followed her just two years later. – *Michael Agresta*

BE INDEPENDENT

BookPeople is not only Austin's #1 local bookstore, but it is also one of the greatest bookstores in the country. Don't believe us? Well, check out all that we have to offer.

- 300 author appearances and special events a year including local authors, celebrities, politicians, and award-winning authors
- Café is stocked with the best in local coffee and snacks and has free WiFi
- The widest selection of magazines and books in Austin
- Large selection of unusual toys, gifts and sale books
- Surrounded by many favorite local shops and eateries

Publishers Weekly
BOOKSELLER OF THE YEAR 2005
"Best bookstore in the country"

Book People
A Community Bound By Books.
Bookstore • Giftshop • Coffeehouse 603 N. Lamar 472-5050
9 am - 11 pm everyday shop online at: www.bookpeople.com

OUR GIFT TO YOU!
CLASSICALLY AUSTIN 89.5
KMFA'S 5TH ANNUAL
FESTIVAL OF CAROLS DECEMBER 22 TO 25
PEACE
COMFORT
JOY
ONLY ON 89.5 KMFA!
YOUR HOME FOR THE CLASSICS
LUCIEN, STIRLING & GRAY ADVISORY GROUP
WWW.KMFA.ORG

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

“A Doctor’s Confession to the City of Austin…”

And why, despite all, I still help people live pain free…

Dear friend,

Confessions are tough, real tough. But, sometimes a confession can set the record straight, and I want to give credit where credit is due. Before I talk about my confession, though, let me say a few other things first. Let me start by explaining the photo in this letter. I’ll start with me, the guy on the left.

Something happened to my mother that changed my life forever. My mom told my dad, *“If God has plans to take me tomorrow, I wish he’d just take me today.”* At the time I was studying to become a physical therapist. My mom was experiencing neck and shoulder pain. She tried medication, physical therapy and acupuncture without results. I was worried that she would have to live with this pain for the rest of her life.

My mom realized that traditional medicine had nothing more to offer when her medical doctor said the pain was all in her head. She finally made an appointment with a chiropractor. Within a short course of treatment, she was pain-free. I was so inspired and excited about the miracle that occurred, I decided to become a chiropractor.

Can chiropractic help your children? The baby in the photo is Delia, my niece. At two weeks old, she spent most of her days with clenched fists and her knees to her chest. She spent her nights in discomfort—she wouldn’t sleep and would vomit often. My frightened sister and brother-in-law brought Delia to her pediatrician. He said she had heartburn and prescribed baby Zantac. She was then brought to a homeopathic doctor who confirmed she had colic. The natural remedies gave her some relief but Delia still couldn’t have a bowel movement without pain. At eight weeks old, she received her first chiropractic adjustment. Instantly she had a bowel movement. After six more adjustments, her colic and constipation disappeared.

The boy in the photo is Nick, my nephew. He started experiencing seizures a year ago. An EEG showed spiking brain waves. My brother and his wife were scared that he would have to be on medication the rest of his life. I treated Nick for two months before his next EEG. The results were remarkable –no more spiking brain waves, which meant no more medicine!

Here’s what some of my patients had to say:

“I was diagnosed with fibromyalgia in 1995…I couldn’t do things most people take for granted… I recently returned to the work force.” (S.W).

“I’ve been like a new person! No more pills. No more nausea, headaches, or abdominal pain.” (P.H).

“I had headaches every day…I haven’t had a headache in two weeks.” (K.H).

Several times a day patients thank me for helping them with their health problems. But I can’t really take the credit. **My confession is that *I’ve never healed anyone of anything.*** What I do is perform a specific spinal adjustment to remove nerve pressure, and the body responds by ***healing itself.*** We get tremendous results. It’s as simple as that!

Being a chiropractor can be tough, because there’s a host of so-called experts out there. They tell people a lot of things that are just plain ridiculous about my profession. But the studies speak for themselves, like the Virginia study that showed that 99% of patients who saw a chiropractor were satisfied with their results. That’s just incredible!

Forty-five million Americans **no longer have health insurance**, and those who do have found that their benefits are reduced. That’s where chiropractic comes in. Many people find that they actually save money on their health care expenses by seeing a chiropractor. Another way to save…studies show that chiropractic can double your immune capacity, naturally and without drugs. The immune system fights colds, flues, and other sicknesses. So you may not be running off to the doctor as much. This is especially important if you are **self-employed.** And, an entire week of care in my office may cost what you could pay for **one visit** elsewhere.

Great care at a great fee…

Please, I hope that there’s no misunderstanding about **quality of care** just because I have a lower exam fee. You’ll get great care at a great fee. Because we have been so successful at helping people get out of pain, we have four offices in Texas & Illinois. Our main location has been helping people for the past 14 years, and we treat over 3000 people in the community. I just have that low fee to help more people who need care.

Our offices are both friendly and warm and we try our best to make you feel at home. We have a wonderful service, at an exceptional fee. Our offices are called **Triple “C” Chiropractic** and were located at:

11130 Jollyville Rd. Ste #201 in Austin.

(1/4 mile west of 183 at the intersection of Jollyville Rd. & Balcones)

You Benefit from an Amazing Offer- Look, it shouldn’t cost you an arm and a leg to correct your health. You are going to write a check to someone for your health care expenses, *you may as well write one for a lesser amount for chiropractic.* When you call or bring in this article (**by February 23rd, 2008**) you will receive our entire new patient exam for **$27**, that’s with x-rays.

This exam could cost you $335 elsewhere. And, further care is very affordable and you’ll be happy to know that **I have affordable family plans.**

You see *I’m not trying to entice you to come see me with this low start up fee, then to only make it up with high fees after that.* Further care is very important to consider when making your choice of doctor. **High costs** can add up very quickly.

Our phone number in Austin is:

(512) 343-8333

Call now for an appointment. Thank you.

-Dr. Daniel Grunert

P.S. When accompanied by the first, I am also offering the second family member this same examination **at no charge**.

P.S.S. Can you imagine not having to wait at a doctor’s office? You will be seen within minutes of your appointment.

TEXAS STATE

MA with a major in Literature

Located just 30 miles from Austin

Classes meet one evening per week

Outstanding visiting writers

Most graduates find jobs or places in top PhD programs

Deadlines are approaching for scholarships and assistantships

TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SAN MARCOS

512.245.7685
malit@txstate.edu
ma.english.txstate.edu

Texas State is a member of the Texas State University System.

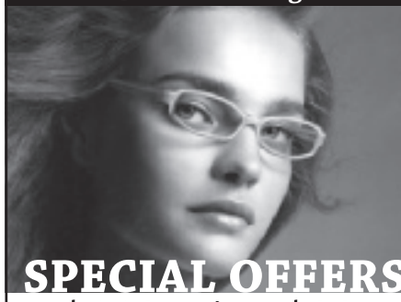
ECCO

RECEPTOR 3040
Silver/white, pink/white, blue/white. Extraordinary walking shoe. Fantastic comfort, great exercising shoe.

SHOE BOXES
Austin’s Affordable Fashion Boutique
Across from Northcross Mall 323-0554
www.shoeboxesaustin.com

An Austin Tradition since 1976
The Fitting Stool
Barton Creek Mall • 328-0682

Vision Source
@ Lincoln Village



SPECIAL OFFERS

$119 Exam & Contacts
3 month supply of spherical contact lenses. Exam, fitting, & follow up visits. Call for details.

$99 Eye Exam & Glasses
Includes frame and single vision lenses.

MOST INSURANCES ACCEPTED

6406 N I-35 Ste. 1250 • 454-4401

AeroGarden™

GROW YOUR OWN HERBS, VEGETABLES AND FLOWERS RIGHT ON YOUR KITCHEN COUNTER TOP WITHOUT SOIL.

COMES WITH A FREE SEED KIT. GOURMET HERBS SEED KIT PROVIDES CONTINUOUS HARVESTS FOR FOUR TO SIX MONTHS.

BRITE IDEAS HYDROPONICS & ORGANICS

4201 SOUTH CONGRESS STE. 317
512-444-2100 1-888-GRO PROS
BIHYDRO.COM

Wild Wood

Gluten- Free, Wheat- Free and Fresh Daily

Vegetarian, Vegan and meat dishes always available!

Our unique gifts are available in our café / art boutique and at the 2007 Armadillo Bazaar!

3663 Bee Cave
Austin 78746
327-9660

Opal Divine's
AUSTIN GRILL

IMPRESS YOUR FRIENDS WITH THE GIFT OF OPAL'S
... & GET A LITTLE SOMETHING FOR YOURSELF

BUY $100 IN GIFT CARDS, GET A $10 CARD FREE!

The Freehouse
700 West 6th ST
(512) 477-3308

Penn Field
3601 S. Congress
(512) 707-0237

Marina
12709 Mopac
(512) 733-5353

the Brick Oven
www.brickovenrestaurant.com
TASTE THE DIFFERENCE

WOOD FIRED
TEXAS' LARGEST WOOD FIRED OVENS

MONDAYS - 1/2 off Kids Meals!
TUESDAYS - 10 for 10 Wine Night

$3 OFF A LARGE PIZZA OR DINNER ENTREE

MUST PRESENT COUPON • LIMIT ONE PER TABLE • EXPIRES 1/11/08

ARBORETUM	DOWNTOWN	SOUTH
Jollyville Rd.	12th & Red River	Brodie & Slaughter
345-6181	477-7006	292-3939

With apologies to 6th STREET, we've been called an ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT all our own.

It's an honor to be near some of Austin's most famous fun places. We think you'll find Spec's to be a fun place with great prices on spirits, wine, beer, gourmet snacks, party preparations and some very tasty eats. Whatever you need for whatever occasion, Spec's is here to help you enjoy life. And by all means, enjoy life.

Enjoy Life.

Find us at Airport Boulevard, Arbor Walk, Highway 71 at Brodie Lane (512)366-8260.

food

54 TRIO AT THE FOUR SEASONS
56 RESTAURANT ROULETTE

ANDIAMO RISTORANTE features a classic Italian five-course meal with a glass of celebratory Champagne for every guest. Reservations required. *5-10pm. 2521 Rutland. $62.* **www.andiamoitaliano.com**.

ARARAT RISING An eclectic celebration with the Sangre del Sol fire spinners, air-brush body painting, tarot card readings, and an after-hours hookah bar, plus music by the Righteous Tidings, DJ Marymac, and Doctor Bullet. A dinner buffet, organic coffees, and a pomegranate Champagne toast are included, and drag king troupe Kings-N-Things will be there shakin' it up at this quantum leap of a party. BYOB. *8pm-2am. Mercury Hall, 615 Cardinal, 236-1226 or 474-TIXS. $50.* **www.myspace.com/araratrestaurant**.

AUSTIN STEAM TRAIN: TWILIGHT FLYER If you're looking for a classy night full of style, whimsy, and a sense of humor, this is your affair. The *Flyer* will take you on a Hill Country journey complete with a full buffet meal, beer, wine, and Champagne. Plus, Laughing Out-Loud Productions will provide celebrity impersonators (mature content – adults only, please). Few seats remain; make your reservations now. *9pm-1am. 477-8468. $125.* **www.austinsteamtrain.org**.

CAFE JULIENNE Wine and dine yourself with a three-course meal of high-end American cuisine. Pick and choose your courses ranging from duck confit salad with sugar pecans and pear slaw to local quail roulade. When your night is done, plop yourself into your bed upstairs at the Stephen F. Austin Hotel, or walk off your celebratory spirits Downtown. *6-9pm. 701 Congress, 721-4288. $80.*

CAP CITY COMEDY NEW YEAR'S SHOW WITH JOE ROGAN Although we have come to know and love him as the host of *Fear Factor* and *News Radio*, Rogan is also a veteran man of the mic, so he probably won't be coaxing anyone to bury themselves in cockroaches this New Year's Eve. (We said *probably*.) Tonight's late-show audience gets a midnight Champagne toast, breakfast buffet, and party favors. *8 & 10:30pm. Cap City Comedy Club, 8120 Research #100, 467-2333. Early show: $30 ($35, reserved seating); late show: $60 ($65, reserved).* **www.capcitycomedy.com.**

CRÚ: A WINE BAR Rather than get a meal with wine pairings, why not get wine with meal pairings? Crú presents a four-course dinner tailored to complement their extensive wine selection. Reservations required. (Special gala seating at 9pm; price includes midnight Champagne, party hats, noisemakers, and music.) *238 W. Second, 472-WINE. $37.50, first seating (5-8pm); $65, gala seating (9, 9:30, & 10pm); wine, extra charge.*

CRYSTAL BALL This annual **Eastside Community Connection** fundraiser is an elegant way to celebrate the holiday, with big-band music, an open bar, and a gourmet dinner. A live auction takes place at 10pm, including goodies like a hunting trip to King Ranch and Round Rock Express tickets; all proceeds benefit ECC's work helping Austin families rise above the poverty line. *7pm-12:30pm. Mansion at Judges' Hill, 1900 Rio Grande, 495-1800. $150.* **www.crystalballaustin.com**.

DINNER AT THE DRISKILL GRILLE Start your New Year's Eve off the correct way with a prix fixe gourmet dinner. Call it your pregame before the storm, but instead of cheap beer at the house, it's a seven-course meal and a bottle of Champagne. Reservations required. *5:30-8:30pm. Driskill Grill, 604 Brazos, 391-7162. $125, early seating; $185, late seating.* **www.driskillgrill.com**.

DOÑA EMILIA'S Enjoy a four-course prix fixe menu of Latin goodness paired with some of Austin's best salsa/merengue, courtesy of Cienfuegos (9pm & 1am). The tasty lineup includes an appetizer pairing of Texas goat cheese and sweetened with *panela* sauce served with grilled white corn cakes. Yum. *Mon., Dec. 31. Doña Emilia's South American Bar & Grill, 101 San Jacinto, 478-2520. First seating (5-8pm), $29-49; late seating (8-11pm), $49-69.* **www.donaemilias.com**.

Crystal Ball

New Year's Eve Dining & Lodging

It's Time to Start Making Reservations, Party People

BY SARA ROBBERSON AND MEGHAN SPEAKERMAN

A NIGHT OF ELEGANCE AT THE DRISKILL Strap on your slacks and silk tie for this annual gala featuring the big-band sounds of Mr. Fabulous and a gourmet five-course meal with wine pairings. Dance the night away on a happy belly while awaiting the midnight Champagne toast and balloon drop; don't forget your party favors and souvenir photos. Fancy! *7:30pm-12:30am. Driskill Hotel, 604 Brazos, 474-5911. $225.* **www.driskillhotel.com**.

FADÓ Double your pleasure by ringing in 2008 twice this year – celebrate the Irish New Year with a Champagne toast at 6pm, and celebrate again at 12mid with a Champagne reception. In the meantime, enjoy your favorite traditional Irish dishes along with drinks, party favors, and music from the Blaggards. *6pm. 214 W. Fourth, 457-0172. $20.* **www.fadoirishpub.com/austin**.

FINO This New Year's, the Fino chefs are ready to show off their stuff. Enjoy four courses of Mediterranean-style dishes featuring high-end ingredients and a little extra flair befitting the spirit of the evening. Reservations required. *5-11pm. 2905 San Gabriel, 474-2905. $65.* **www.finoaustin.com**.

FOUR SEASONS Enjoy a special New Year's Eve meal at the Four Seasons' new restaurant this evening (for more on TRIO, see p.54), or just hang in the **Lobby Lounge** (*8pm-12mid*), where house favorite Brett Cline works the keys over while you party your pants off, waiting for the traditional balloon drop at midnight (after which you're free to retire to your cozy hotel room). *98 San Jacinto, 478-4500. Lobby Lounge: $25; hotel packages start at $340 (add Dec. 30 for $20.07, or Jan. 1 for $20.08).* **www.fourseasons.com**.

HYATT LOST PINES features a New Year's Eve with Texan flair, including a barbecue buffet, Texas two steppin', carriage rides, glow-in-the-dark putt-putt, face painting, fireworks, and lots of fun for the kids and teens. Package includes accommodations for two adults and two young ones, with breakfast the following morning. (There will be a whole weekend of New Year's festivities in Bastrop, including the **New Orleans Parade** on *Sat. Dec. 29*, and then Sunday's **New Orleans Extravaganza Concert** featuring Grammy Award-winning Dr. John and Hannibal Lokumbe with his 70-person choir. Tix are available through Hyatt Lost Pines. Highly recommended.) *5pm. 575 Hyatt Lost Pines Rd., Bastrop, 512/308-1234. $339.*

MCCORMICK & SCHMICK'S brings you a special New Year's Eve menu at both locations, showcasing an Australian rock lobster tail with a fillet for $49.95. Live music at the Downtown restaurant and a free Champagne toast at midnight! *Reservations required. Mon., Dec. 31 (restaurant open till 11pm; bar till 12mid). 401 Congress, 236-9600; 11600 Century Oaks Terrace, 836-0500.* **www.mccormickandschmicks.com**.

MURDER MYSTERY DINNER Munch on garlic bread, and ponder who dunnit. Catch the show at 7pm, or enjoy the late 10pm dinner show of *Really Bad Santa*! Seats are going fast, so make your reservation soon. *7 & 10pm. Spaghetti Warehouse, 117 W. Fourth, 404-9123. $29.95.* **www.capcitymystery.com/spaghetti.html**.

PRIMIZIE OSTERIA Italian and world fusion come together with fresh, seasonal ingredients in a six-course fixed-price menu (or four courses for the early seating), with a glass of Prosecco Frozza upon arrival. A complete vegetarian menu will be available. (Reservations required by *Thu., Dec. 27, 5pm.*) *1000 E. 11th. $60 (5-6pm, four courses); $75 (after 6pm, six courses).* **www.primizieaustin.com**.

SAME YEAR'S EVE PARTY Every improviser in the city is going to be at the Hideout for this wild-ass, joyously unfettered, tear-the-old-year-down celebration. Improv games, scenes, long-form, and musical stories – followed by a party as only the Austin Improv Collective can host. *Sun., Dec. 30, 8pm. The Hideout Theatre, 617 Congress, 443-3688.* **www.hideouttheatre.com**

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN HOTEL Party it up in the bar while Margaret Wright tickles the keys for your listening pleasure. Hors d'oeuvres and dessert provided, as well as a glass of Champagne at midnight. The best part: the bed upstairs and breakfast waiting for you in the morning. *10pm. InterContinental Stephen F. Austin, 701 Congress, 457-8800. $379 ($50, without accommodations).* **www.austin.intercontinental.com**.

NEW YEAR'S WEEKEND INTENSIVE Led by sanyasi preachers of the beautiful Barsana Dham, this weekendlong stay is one of relaxation, meditation, and tranquility far from the shenanigans in the city. Families are welcome to the yoga classes and meditation sessions, and a 24-hour continuous chant known as Akhand Sankirtan will take place from noon on New Year's Eve to noon the following day. *Fri.-Tue., Dec. 28-Jan. 1. Barsana Dham, 400 Barsana Rd., 288-7180. Whole weekend: $101 per family; single day: $25 per family; chant, free (all fees exclude room charges, which vary).* **www.barsanadham.org**.

See next week's New Year's Eve Guide for more.

FOOD-O-FILE

BY VIRGINIA B. WOOD

Well, I've seen *White Christmas*, delivered a vanload of desserts to the *Chronicle* Christmas party, and fallen asleep to the sound of the Raleigh Ringers playing songs from *The Nutcracker Suite* on PBS, so now I am officially in the Christmas spirit! Shoppingwise, I find I'm most delighted with gifts I've had made by local artisans such as **Wendy Irwin** of **Ballistic Sweater Girl Designs** (a custom retro cowgirl diaper bag for **Flannery Norman** and her mom, **Paula Disbrowe**) and delightful pink sunbonnets for my sister's granddaughters by **Chia Guillory** of **Chia Hats**. Partywise, I don't get out much during the holidays, but I did attend an art show at **Spazio** (1214 W. Sixth, 474-5768) earlier this month presenting the paintings of my longtime friend **Tom Darnell**. We met years ago when I was making desserts for a living and he was working his way through the University of Texas waiting tables. About the time I came to work for the *Chronicle*, Darnell moved to the south of France to pursue his dream of a painting career. His work has been shown in Madrid, Barcelona, London, New York, Los Angeles, Atlanta, Nashville, Buenos Aires, and Hong Kong, but this was his first show at home in Texas. I'd never been to Spazio before, but it turns out **Lytle Pressley**'s sophisticated interiors gallery is a great venue in which to appreciate art – displaying paintings among the furniture groupings definitely establishes context for the work. Pressley saw to it that I was comfortable in a fabulous chair, and his gracious staff made guests feel right at home with plenty of bubbly and tasty nibbles from **Portabla**. Darnell's paintings remain at Spazio through the end of the year… Also in the holiday spirit, baking and pastry students at the **Culinary Academy of Austin** (6020-B Dillard Circle, 451-5743) created an elaborate eight-building gingerbread village and presented it to the **Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas** earlier this week. The village will be on display in the hospital lobby through the holidays… For a distinctive holiday dining experience on Christmas Eve, why not celebrate *La Vigilia* – the Italian feast of seven fishes – at **Ciola's Italian-American Restaurant** (1310 RR 620 S., Lakeway; 512/263-9936; **www.ciolas.com**), where they'll be serving from 3 to 9pm on Dec. 24. We're advised this feast has every bit as enthusiastic a following as Ciola's popular *Big Night* events, so reservations are strongly suggested. And the friendly folks at **Manny Hattan's New York Delicatessen** (Gateway Square Shopping Center, 794-0088; **www.mannyhattans.com**) will be serving breakfast, lunch, and dinner on Christmas Day from 8am to 8pm, with take-out items such as bagels and lox available, as well… Growing up in Midland, I was always jealous of people who were getting oil royalty checks (we only ever got one – long story for another time) and people who were "going to the ranch" for the weekend, the summer, the holidays – whatever. My sister is married to a man who actually has a ranch, so now I'm finally one of those people who is "going to the ranch" for the holidays. I'll be cooking in the all-new Viking kitchen in their party house! Ho, ho, ho.

PHOTOS BY JOHN ANDERSON

TRIO AT THE FOUR SEASONS

98 San Jacinto, 685-8300; www.fourseasons.com/austin/dining
Open daily for breakfast, lunch, and dinner; Sunday brunch, 10am-2pm

The Four Seasons Hotel, strategically situated smack between Downtown Austin and the lake formerly known as Town, has been a local institution from its inception in 1987; it was Austin's first grand hotel. And 20 years hence, a signature part of that institution is re-created in a new image – what was formerly the Cafe at the Four Seasons on Town Lake is now TRIO at the Four Seasons on Lady Bird Lake. But while the lake changed in name only, the hotel's flagship restaurant has thoroughly reinvented itself – ambience, decor, menu, and wine list.

To begin with, the new interior space is both less formal and more elegant than its former incarnation – now it's all about the light, with floor-to-ceiling windows looking out across the stone-and-wood Terrace outdoor dining area to the sloping green lawns and the water. This bath of natural light is enhanced by the color scheme; tones of pomegranate, pumpkin, and wine on walls and light fixtures change throughout the day – the space seems quite golden in daylight but is rosy into the evening. Sort of like a Texas sunset, and I don't think it's an accident. There are lots of clean lines, warm burnished woods, and large, vaguely wine-themed paintings.

Restaurant REVIEWS

A fundamental factor in the restaurant's reputation and success has been its beloved executive chef, Elmar Prambs, at the helm since the hotel's beginning. Happily, he remains integrally involved in the new world order at TRIO; he is joined in the kitchen by new chef de cuisine Todd Duplechan, a Dallas native who brings impressive credentials from New York, where he worked with Daniel Bouley, Floyd Cardoz, Danny Meyer, and Tom Colicchio.

The name TRIO refers to steak, seafood, and wine, and that more or less says it about the restaurant's current culinary focus; however, we are definitely not talking about your grandparents' steak house. Yes, everything at dinner is à la carte, and yes, there is an impressive list of prime-grade beef, ranging from a flat-iron steak ($25) to the whopping 22-ounce bone-in Cowboy Steak ($39). The Niman Ranch Natural Beef Strip Loin ($44) is chewy and flavorful, served in a spare pool of dark bordelaise sauce. My rack of Colorado lamb ($35) was big, beautiful, and cooked a perfect medium-rare with a nice exterior char. Fans will be relieved that chef Prambs' popular pork-tenderloin schnitzel ($23) remains on the menu. To accompany meat entrées, you can choose any selection of side sauces from a list of seven – classics like béarnaise or peppercorn or not quite so classic options such as chili-crab and red-eye gravy. (Red-eye gravy? For the Cowboy Steak, I guess.)

The Four Seasons' flagship restaurant has thoroughly reinvented itself: ambience, decor, menu, and wine list.

On the seafood side, you'll find diver scallops ($28) and the ubiquitous steak-house standard Maine lobster ($44). But there are also some less common offerings, such as Dover sole ($39) and a sustainably farm-raised Scottish salmon ($28), which is moist and subtly delicious. I look forward to trying the monkfish wrapped in prosciutto ($30).

Big meats and fishes aside, it's the appetizers, salads, and side dishes where TRIO's dinner menu really gets interesting, busting way out of steak-house mode into inspired creativity. One of the best dishes I've laid lip to this year is the squid appetizer ($14). Americans are used to eating deep-fried calamari rings; TRIO's stellar dish elevates the humble squid to new heights. Generous flat pieces of lemon-scented squid are momentarily griddled (à la plancha) to perfect fork-tenderness and served in a salad of yellow fingerling potatoes, pickled fava beans, and tiny pieces of paprika-laden Spanish chorizo. It's an amazing combination.

Another winning appetizer is the pot of crab fondue ($16, more than enough for two) – big lumps of sweet crabmeat in a mild Swiss cheese matrix laced with brandy and a bracing bit of cayenne. It's served with toasted, herby bruschetta, but I'd prefer some plainer bread to contrast with the rich sauce. (Bits from the enormous crusty popovers served at the table do the job nicely.)

A playful nod to the steak-house thing is the salad "trio" of little iceberg-lettuce wedges ($10), each with a different dressing (green goddess, blue cheese, creamy onion). The beet salad ($10) is the classic combination of roasted beets, Stilton, and bacon, but it's an exceptionally tasty version, with succulent, tiny red and yellow beets. Of the vegetable sides, sweet-corn crème brûlée ($8) is exactly that – a caramelized brûlée with crunchy corn kernels within a sweet, rich corn-cream pudding. It sounds a bit over-the-top but is absolutely addictive, and it pairs beautifully with charred beef. A fairly plain but nicely nutty farro risotto ($7) is another inspired complement to most of the entrées. I heartily recommend the simply sautéed hen-of-the-woods mushrooms ($12), with a delicate feathery texture and robust, earthy taste.

After such a fine repast, I confess that dessert left me scratching my head. What I ordered was pineapple beignet with coconut and passion fruit pot de crème and vanilla granite ($8). What I got was a plate containing a little dish of silky tropical pudding, a large spoon bearing some mildly flavored ice crystals, and three tall cylindrical glasses, each with a tablespoon of caramel sauce in the bottom and supporting a column of battered and fried fresh pineapple. While the pot de crème was just delicious, I still haven't figured out the rest of it. I think it's good news that the just-hired pastry chef, Naomi Gallego, will be introducing a completely different dessert menu in January. (However, at a lunchtime meal, I enjoyed a charming candied whole lemon, hollowed out and filled with lemon curd and capped by a swirl of meringue. It was a like a happy marriage between lemon meringue pie and a tart marmalade.)

Along with steak and seafood, TRIO's third focus is on wine, and that is now in the capable hands of newly hired sommelier Mark Sayre, who was recently awarded Texas' Best Sommelier of 2007 by the Texas Sommelier Association. This personable and hospitable young wine host has reworked the 24-page wine list to accompany the new menu; along with the selection of some 300 wines, there are about 60 wines by the glass.

In addition to dinner, TRIO is open for breakfast and lunch every day, as well as for a formidable Sunday brunch ($55 for adults, with bottomless pours of bubbly and mimosas). Lunch is a more casual affair, offering lots of salads and sandwiches. The Lobster Grapefruit Salad Sandwich ($25) is just terrific – a filling lobster salad whose sweetness is beautifully tempered by essence of grapefruit, served open-faced on a slice of toasted brioche. It's a surprising combination of flavors that really works.

A really nice touch at lunch is the perfectly brewed iced tea and hibiscus iced tea, both of which are served over tea ice cubes and accompanied by little vials of simple syrup instead of sugar. This kind of attention to detail is so representative of what has always made a meal at the Four Seasons something special. TRIO has a new look, a new menu, and lots of new ideas, but it carries on the tradition of dining both well and graciously. It's all in the details. – *MM Pack*

LOBBY LOUNGE AT THE FOUR SEASONS

Monday-Thursday, 1pm-1am; Friday-Saturday, 11am-2am; Sunday, 10am-12mid

You just can't talk about the Four Seasons in Austin without mentioning the Lobby Lounge. A sprawling expanse of comfy conversation areas adjacent to the hotel lobby, this is unquestionably one of the best bars (with some of the best bartenders) in the city. You can order a drink with confidence, from a classic cocktail such as a sidecar to a Batini (Austin's official tipple) to a seasonal Partridge in a Pear; these bartenders know their business, and drinks are made strictly from scratch. The bar food, delivered from the TRIO restaurant kitchens downstairs, is light, fresh, beautifully prepared and presented, and designed to complement drinks.

The bar's ambience is a cocktail of city-style elegance (high-backed armchairs, polished wood, embossed linen drink coasters) and cattle-baron-chic (longhorn head mounted over the fireplace, equestrian statuary, cowhide upholstery). Ceiling-high windows face the lake, creating a prime location for bat-watching in the twilight.

There's often something of a show inside, too, and I'm not referring to the regular performances on the gleaming grand piano. The Lobby Lounge has been informally called "Austin's living room" for long enough that the Four Seasons calls it that now, too.

Politicians, socialites, visiting celebrities, musicians and music moguls, local movers and shakers all seem to pass through at some point; the bar's been witness to many a meeting, many a deal, many a late-night tryst. It's served as the locus for the annual Texas Hill Country Wine & Food Festival for many years, and it becomes an automatic afterparty for events in the hotel. During the South by Southwest and Austin City Limits festivals, the lobby bar is a teeming crossroads. And at the same time ... you're likely to see a higher concentration of expensive suits there than anywhere else in the city. Austin's living room, indeed. – *MM. P.*

ZEN
JAPANESE FOOD FAST
NOW OPEN
AT
BRODIE LANE & 290
(Behind Red Robin)
TODAY IS
30% THIRD THURSDAY
FOR STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND FACULTY AT ALL LOCATIONS

CELEBRATE '08
New Year's Eve @ 219West
Dinner Seatings @ 6 & 8
Featuring our Famous
"Prime Rib Style"
Pecan Smoked Beef Tenderloin
Celebration Seating After 10 pm.
Call for Table Reservations
Dine Early
Play Late
219 West
Restaurant Lounge Nightclub
219 W. 4th st.
(512) 474-2194
www.219west.com

frank & angie's
508 West Ave • 472-3534
Frank & Angies "might just be the pie enthusiast's best bet; its great thin crust version is accompanied by reasonably priced, classic homestyle dishes named after famous Italians and served with a bit of nostalgic attitude, making it great for a casual date." -Zagat Survey 2006

Hut's
EMERIL'S FAVORITE BURGER JOINT!
VOTED BEST BURGER BY AUSTIN CHRONICLE READERS
EVERY YEAR FOR THE PAST 21 YEARS
472-0693 • 807 W. 6th St.

Thai Kitchen
Exclusive Thai Cuisine

THANKS AUSTIN FOR ANOTHER YEAR
VOTED BEST THAI FOOD FOR OVER 16 YEARS IN CHRONICLE'S ANNUAL RESTAURANT POLL

THAIKITCHENOFAUSTIN.COM
801 E. William Cannon Blvd. 445-4844
3009 Guadalupe St. 474-2575
M-TH 11A-12A • F 11A-1A
SA 12P-1A • SUN 12P-12A
3437 Bee Caves Rd. 328-3538

POLVOS
INTERIOR MEXICAN FOOD

HAPPY HOUR • 4PM-7PM • M-F
$4.50 Margaritas • $3.50 Imports
OPEN • 7AM-10PM • Every Day
2004 S. 1ST.441-5446

ZAX
PINTS & PLATES
An American Bistro
Fine Food & Spirits
Patio Dining
20 Craft Brews on Tap
Sunday Brunch 11-3
Corner of Riverside @ Barton Springs
481-0100 • www.zaxaustin.com

Whip in

Best little cornershop in Texas!
750+ beers & 1000+ wines
gourmet groceries
take-out meals
music and events
tasting blog
smokes & incense
1950 S. IH-35 ⁎ 512.442.5337
whipin.com

Los Pinos RESTAURANT
BREAKFAST
LUNCH
DINNER
The Chile Con Queso Especial is a complete delight, The queso is what tortilla chips are made for!
- Rob Balon
Lunch Specials
Only $6.99
Plus FREE Iced Tea
MON-FRI 11am to 3pm
SUN.-THUR. 7am to 9pm
FRI. & SAT. 7am to 10pm
4919 HUDSON BEND ROAD • 266-3231

OAXACAN TAMALEO
Come support Austin's farmer's market
It's Tamale Season!
Open from 9am-1pm located at 4th & Guadalupe

512-289-9262 www.tamaleo.com
1634 HWY 71 EAST CEDAR CREEK, TX 78612
just past Hyatt Lost Pines Resort

RESTAURANT ROULETTE

ESTIMATED MEAL COST PER PERSON

$ <$10 **$$** $10-25 **$$$** $25-40 **$$$$** $40+

DOWNTOWN

AMERICAN CAFE: **LEAF** Healthy, fresh, gourmet entrée salads in a fast-casual environment, made with a commitment to local farmers, vendors, and the environment. Fabulous. ***419 W. Second, 474-5323.*** **www.leafsalad.com**. ***$$***

AMERICAN CAFE: **PARADISE CAFE** Its Downtown location and hearty menu have led to its success as a lunch destination as well as a nighttime spot. ***401 E. Sixth, 476-5667. $$***

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: **THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE** With goodies, coffee, tea, beer, films, performance art, bands, and a great view of the Congress goings-on, this storefront gathering spot is a major find. ***617 Congress, 476-0473.*** **www.thehideout.org**. ***$***

BARBECUE: **BOWIE STREET BBQ AT WHOLE FOODS MARKET** All-natural Texas-style barbecue in a lunch-counter setting, featuring house-made beef andouille sausage, chicken, pulled pork, baby back ribs, and beef brisket. Available both by the plate and by the pound. ***525 N. Lamar, 476-1206. $***

BARBECUE: **HOUSE PARK BAR-B-QUE** No-frills, mesquite-smoked brisket, pork loin, sausage, and chicken plates and sandwiches, served from the same smoke-redolent shack since 1943. ***900 W. 12th, 472-9621. $***

FINE DINING, FRENCH: **BESS BISTRO ON PECAN** This gem offers a varied menu of international comfort food served in a relaxed bistro atmosphere. A great selection of beer and spirits, and a well-thought-out wine list complement the experience. ***500 W. Sixth, 477-2377.*** **www.bessbistro.com**. ***$$$$***

FINE DINING, ITALIAN: **TAVERNA** Find a variety of Italian staples such as bruschetta, pasta, risotto, and pizza. Brunch is served on Saturday and Sunday. Indoor and sidewalk tables are available. ***258 W. Second, 477-1001.*** **www.tavernabylombardi.com**. ***$$***

FINE DINING: **STARLITE** Devotees may miss the cozy blue house uptown, but the charm is still there. Elegant and creative New American cuisine made with fresh, seasonal ingredients still complements affordable wine options. ***407 Colorado, 374-9012.*** **www.starliteaustin.net**. ***$$$***

PAN-ASIAN: **IMPERIA** Ground zero for the dim sum and small plate craze, this place also features a good wine list. ***310 Colorado, 472-6770.*** **www.imperia-austin.com**. ***$$$***

STEAKHOUSE: **FLEMING'S PRIME STEAKHOUSE & WINE BAR** Perfectly prepared beef presented in a comfortable, clubby setting and enhanced by an extensive wine list and accomplished service. ***320 E. Second, 457-1500.*** **www.flemingssteakhouse.com**. ***$$$$***

VIETNAMESE: **MEKONG RIVER** Formerly known as Công Lý, find the same pho, but you can't listen to Abba until 2am. A staple for quick, cheap, and tasty meals. ***215 E. Sixth, 236-8878.*** **www.mekongriveronsixth.com**. ***$***

EAST

AMERICAN CAFE, FINE DINING: **EASTSIDE CAFE** The only restaurant in town with its own enormous garden. That means they serve the freshest salads and vegetables in every season. ***2113 Manor Rd., 476-5858.*** **www.eastsidecafeaustin.com**. ***$$$***

AMERICAN CAFE: **CISCO'S BAKERY** In the breakfast business for 50 years, they still serve good migas, huevos rancheros, and hot biscuits with healthy doses of Austin political history. ***1511 E. Sixth, 478-2420. $***

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: **CAFE MUNDI** This Eastside boho combo coffeehouse/art space/gift shop serves up sandwiches, salads, and muffins, plus waffles on weekends! ***1704 E. Fifth #100, 236-8634. $***

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: **PROGRESS COFFEE** Serves fair-trade, shade-grown organic coffee in a revamped warehouse showcasing some of Austin's best artwork. The menu walks a tasty line between deli standards and gourmet innovation. One block east of I-35. ***500 San Marcos St., 493-0963.*** **www.progresscoffee.com**. ***$***

CAJUN/CREOLE: **MS. B'S AUTHENTIC CREOLE RESTAURANT** Check it out tout de suite, for a delicious taste of the Crescent City, including sensational desserts and an affordable but well-chosen wine list. ***1050 E. 11th, 542-9143.*** **www.msbscreole.com**. ***$$$***

SOUTHERN/DOWN-HOME: **GENE'S NEW ORLEANS STYLE POBOYS & DELI** The royalty of New Orleans-style soul food in Austin. The po'boys are the real deal, and the fantastic daily soul-food specials keep the place hopping at lunchtime. ***1209 E. 11th, 477-6600.*** **www.genesrestaurant.com**. ***$***

TEX-MEX: **LA MORENITA MEXICAN RESTAURANT** By the smells and bright brick and tile interior you can guess what's on the menu, and that's just fine with the regulars. ***2944 E. 12th, 472-4841. $***

TEX-MEX: **MI MADRE'S** Excellent Mexican food in a homey diner atmosphere. Quaint and comfortable and known for their breakfast tacos. ***2201 Manor Rd., 480-8441. $***

TEX-MEX: **NUEVO LEON** Cavernous, friendly restaurant offering cheap combination plates. Decorated almost exclusively in pink and green, adorned with Texas-shaped mirrors and Xmas lights. Serious date potential. ***1501 E. Sixth, 479-0097.*** **www.nuevoleoninaustin.com**. ***$$***

TEX-MEX: **PORFIRIO'S TACOS** Taco shop serving breakfast and lunch. Carne guisada is their speciality. ***1512-B Holly, 476-5030. $***

LAKE

AMERICAN CAFE: **POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL** A place with music mojo and damn fine burgers. This place channels old Austin music treasures like Soap Creek and Checkered Flag. Don't miss the Poodie burger. ***22308 Hwy. 71 W., 264-0318.*** **www.poodies.com**. ***$***

BARBECUE: **R.O.'S OUTPOST BBQ** A complete barbecue menu is available, as well as chicken-fried steak and fried quail. No matter how much you eat, you must save room for the pies and cobblers ***22112 Hwy. 71 W. #2, 264-1169. $$***

CARIBBEAN: **AUNT TILLY'S ISLAND CAFE & BAR** Wash down island-inspired favorites such as jerk skewers, *tostones*, Cuban sandwiches, and conch fritters with a cold Red Stripe, *mon*. ***16410 Stewart, 266-0331.*** **www.aunttillys.com**. ***$$***

THAI: **THAI SPICE CAFE** Offers fresh, fast, reliable versions of traditional Thai fare. ***1310 RR 620 S., 263-2221.*** **www.thaispice.com**. ***$$***

NORTH

AFRICAN: **T'S CAFE** Go with a small army and safari your way through the menu of tasty and exotic stews, starches, and appetizers. ***15608 Springhill #102, 251-4432, 913-1095. $$***

AMERICAN CAFE: **JIM'S RESTAURANT** Breakfast fare includes most of the standards, along with decent tacos. For lunch or dinner, try the chili burger with fries or the chicken-fried steak plate. ***9091 Research, 837-1119.*** **www.jimsrestaurants.com**. ***$$***

AMERICAN CAFE: **NORTH BY NORTHWEST** Start with a beer-tasting tray, and then move on to roasted garlic bulbs with goat cheese. Be sure to save room for the bone-in pork loin, a dish that will make you proud to be a carnivore. ***10010 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 467-6969.*** **www.nxnwbrew.com**. ***$$***

FINE DINING: **EUROPEAN BISTRO** A graciously unpretentious ambience of intimate dining alcoves and Eastern European classical music – the perfect atmosphere for the traditional Austro-Hungarian Empire dishes that they serve. ***111 E. Main, Round Rock. 835-1919.*** **www.hungarianbistro.com**. ***$$$***

FINE DINING: **MAIN STREET GRILL** An elegant oasis whose warm wood and interior columns refer to its former life as a small-town bank, complete with a wine cellar in the intact vault. ***118 E. Main, Round Rock. 244-7525. $$$$***

JAPANESE: **MIDORI** Given its location, you'd expect lots of lunch traffic, especially considering the bargain lunch specials. A nice array of entrée choices is available for dinner and take-out. ***13435 Hwy. 183 N., 257-1411. $$$***

PIZZA: **MANGIA CHICAGO STUFFED PIZZA** Delectable and deceptively filling stuffed pizza at a reasonable cost. Now going cross-cultural with breakfast tacos. ***12001 Burnet Rd., 832-5550.*** **www.mangiapizza.com**. ***$***

TEX-MEX: **TAQUERIA ARANDAS #4** Mexican breakfasts, sweet *horchata*, and the sunny red and white interior can whisk the fog out of anyone's morning brain. ***834 Rundberg, 835-4369. $***

VIETNAMESE: **PHO CONG LY** This location has quickly become a staple for quick, cheap, and tasty meals. Where else can you slurp down a bowl of pho and listen to Abba? ***8557 Research, 832-5595. $***

continued on p.58

BELLAGIO OPEN CHRISTMAS EVE
JOIN US FOR A FESTIVE NEW YEAR'S EVE!
Six Course Dinner Offered From 5PM-Midnight $85
Four Course Early Dining Option 5PM-6:30PM $60
BELLAGIO ITALIAN BISTRO
346-8228 • 6507 Jester Blvd.
FM 2222 @ JESTER BLVD.
OPEN M-F @11:30
SATURDAY 5:30 • HAPPY HOUR M-F 5-7
TAKE OUT & CATERING AVAILABLE

THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE
restaurant guide
austinchronicle.com/guides/restaurant

DAILY JUICE
RAW HOT CHOCOLATE
MADE WITH CACAO, ALMOND BUTTER, VANILLA & AGAVE NECTAR
AN INSPIRING DRINK THAT WARMS SOULS & HEIGHTENS SENSES.
TASTE WHAT REAL, RAW CHOCOLATE IS ALL ABOUT.

from Antipasto to Tiramisu

PLUS MORE THAN 50 VEGETARIAN DISHES

Tony's Vineyard

Italian restaurant

2828 RIO GRANDE 512/476-5600 TONYSVINEYARD.COM

SUN-THU 11A-10P & FRI-SAT 11-MID

Cinnamon's Bakery

WORLD'S GREATEST CINNAMON ROLLS

NO BRAG, JUST FACT

Buy one GET ONE FREE

LIMIT ONE WITH COUPON

"BEST BAKERY" 2003 CRITIC'S PICK

6406 N. IH35 IN LINCOLN VILLAGE 452-7655

Perfect Gifts

The Fonda San Miguel Cookbook

Gift cards available in any denomination

FONDA SAN MIGUEL

512.459.4121 2330 W.North Loop Austin, Texas

El Greco

A GREEK TAVERNA

Austin's only authentic Greek-owned and operated restaurant is NOW OPEN!

Authentic ancestral Greek cuisine in a fast casual dining environment.

BREAKFAST

ESPRESSO, CAPPUCINO & GREEK COFFEE

DAILY LUNCH & DINNER SPECIALS

CATERING

We offer catering and delivery service to most of the Austin metro area.

3016 Guadalupe (31st & Guadalupe-Behind Mangia)

512.47.GREEK (512.474.7335)

ZUZU® HANDMADE MEXICAN FOOD Family Owned SINCE 1997

zuzuaustin.com

NOW OPEN!

2 Austin Locations: North & South

Come visit our new store at 360 & Bee Caves (Across from The County Line) 732-2117

Also located at: FM 2222 & Mo-Pac 467-9295

$3 OFF

Any purch
2 p.m. Pr
Not valid wi

Open 7 days a week! M–TH 8-9, FRI/SAT 8

Breakfast: M–F 8-11:30 SAT/SU

Since 1985

TEXAS SPICE

Wholesale, Retail

2709 Sam Bass Rd. ♦ Round Rock

www.TexasSpiceCo.com

(512) 255-8816

Holiday Hours: Mon.-Sat. 10-5pm

GENERAL STORE

Gourmet Flavors and Foods

★Award Winning Seasonings

Coffees ♦ Salsa ♦ BBQ Sauce

Organic Soup Mixes ♦ Breads ♦ Jellies

Great Gift Ideas

"Tamales"

The Gift of Flavor Never Goes Out of Style

10% OFF

Food Service Distributors: 260-1712

Scrumptious!

kerbey lane CAFE

Pancake Mix Gift Baskets

Now Available On Line or from your nearest Kerbey Lane Cafe

Central 3704 Kerbey Lane 451-1436

University 2606 Guadalupe 477-5717

South 2700 S. Lamar 445-4451

Northwest 12602 Research 258-7757

kerbeylanecafe.com

CELEBRATE AT LOUIE'S 106

Thank You Austin for 22 Great Years

Enjoy your meal while listening to our Resident Pianist
Monday-Friday 6:30-9:30pm

10oz. Prime Rib Entree $21.95 and enjoy 50% Off any Bottle of Wine
All Night on Sunday's
(Not good with any other offer.)

New Happy Hour, enjoy Half Price Appetizers and 20% Off Wines by the Glass and Cocktails
Monday-Friday 4:00-7:00pm
(Bar area only.)

We can host your Christmas Parties this Holiday Season, Catering to Groups of up to 80 people.

$20 Gift Certificate
Receive $20 off your total food bill Monday-Thursday
Not valid with any other offer, minimun purchase of $50 required, excludes tax and tip. Expires 12/25/07

LOUIE'S 106
106 East 6th Street
476-1997 • www.louies106.net
Valet Parking Available

MARS Restaurant & Bar

proudly welcomes back

Chef Thomas Reeh

formerly of Wink and Fino

Now accepting reservations for our special New Years Eve dinner

1400 S. Congress 512.472.3901 www.marsaustin.com

NORTH CENTRAL

AMERICAN CAFE: **HYDE PARK BAR & GRILL** Gotta have those batter-dipped fries, we know. But this spot at the fork in the road does other things very well, too, such as fish, chicken, and beef. ***4206 Duval St., 458-3168. $$***

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: **DOLCE VITA INTERNATIONAL BAR** Offers a delicious assortment of handmade Italian ice creams and fruit sorbets, along with a variety of coffee drinks, spirits, and cordials. ***4222 Duval St., 323-2686. $***

BURGER JOINT, TEX-MEX: **ALONZO'S/JALAPEÑO JOE'S** Present yourself at the window, and order an Angus beef burger or the pile of Tex-Mex sustenance known as the Alonzo Platter, but save room for Ernest's Enchiladas. ***4905 Airport, 451-3326. $***

CHINESE, JAPANESE: **PEI WEI ASIAN DINER** A sleek diner atmosphere and affordable favorites keep us coming back for lunch and dinner. Choose your own combinations for noodle and rice bowls. ***1000 E. 41st, 382-3860.*** **www.peiwei.com**. ***$***

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: **NEWORLDELI** This concept cafe stresses customer comfort, and that starts with offering lunch for less than $5. ***4101 Guadalupe, 451-7170. $***

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: **JASON'S DELI** The sandwich selection ranges from traditional deli to wraps and pita pockets, plus there are special menu sections dedicated to heart-healthy and kids' choices. ***1000 E. 41st #940, 453-8666.*** **www.jasonsdeli.com**. ***$$***

ITALIAN: **MANDOLA'S ITALIAN MARKET** This market/restaurant from Houston's Mandola clan is attracting crowds with imported Italian deli meats and cheeses, fresh-baked rustic breads and pastries, and homemade gelatos and sorbettos. Enjoy well-selected wines by the bottle and the glass and prepared foods to eat in or take out. ***4700 Guadalupe #12, 419-9700.*** **www.mandolasmarket.com**. ***$***

JAPANESE, KOREAN: **KIMCHI SUSHI** Simply decorated Lincoln Village sushi bar also features Korean favorites. ***6406 N. I-35, 453-4111. $$***

SEAFOOD: **CAPTAIN'S SEAFOOD & OYSTER BAR** A full range of both fried and broiled seafood. Especially popular are the oyster or shrimp diablo appetizers and Captain Dan's Crawfish Pirogue. ***5700 N. I-35, 452-1417. $$***

TEX-MEX: **TAMALE HOUSE** An Airport Boulevard institution, they offer authentic, no-frills Tex-Mex. Pull up a chair on the sunbaked concrete, and forget about tamales; they actually do not serve them. ***5003 Airport, 453-9842.*** **www.myspace.com/tamalehouse**. ***$***

SOUTH

AMERICAN CAFE: **RUTA MAYA** This community-oriented coffeehouse has expanded its menu to include falafel, tamales, made-to-order sandwiches, and more. Live music daily. ***3601 S. Congress, 707-9637.*** **www.rutamaya.net**. ***$***

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: **LA MEXICANA BAKERY** Well-known for its wide selection of inexpensive pan dulces, empanadas, and *galletas*. If your sweet tooth needs a root canal, try something from the taqueria. ***1924 S. First, 443-6369.*** **www.la-mexicana-bakery.com**. ***$***

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE, DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: **GARDEN DISTRICT COFFEE HOUSE** The eats are predominantly Cuban, including sweetly rich and delicious coffee drinks and piping hot empanadas. An assortment of grill-pressed sandwiches are offered too, including an extra-piggy ham and roast pork. Wi-Fi ready. ***2810 S. Congress, 462-2473. $***

BARBECUE: **RICHARD JONES PIT BARBEQUE: THE ORIGINAL** Order takeout, or sit yourself down for some fast, delicious Q. ***2304 S. Congress, 444-2272.*** **www.rjbbq.com**. ***$***

CHINESE: **CHINA EMPEROR** Definitely try the General Tso's chicken, featuring a sinus-clearing spice rating. The hot and sour soup also leaves a pleasant, peppery afterburn. ***111 W. William Cannon #312, 443-2922. $$***

CHINESE: **CHINA EXPRESS CHINESE RESTAURANT** If you don't want to shell out more than six or seven bucks for a decent, filling, Chinese dinner, this is a good bet. Try the sesame chicken. ***1913 E. Riverside, 448-3633. $***

INTERIOR MEXICAN: **CILANTRO'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT** Tiny restaurant serves tasty Mexican home cooking in a cozy and no-frills atmosphere. Not to be missed: the tacos doblados and the fabulous homemade flan. No liquor, but BYOB. ***1025 W. Stassney, 707-1207. $$***

INTERIOR MEXICAN: **GARIBALDI'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT** Terrific Mexico City food, a large menu, and modest prices. Best classic chile relleno in town. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner. ***4201 S. Congress #106, 326-9788.*** **www.geocities.com/garibaldismex@wans.net**. ***$$***

JAPANESE: **SHOGUN** Specialties of the house include sukiyaki, tempura, teriyaki, teppanyaki, udon, and soba. Also features some interesting salads. ***1807 Slaughter #225, 292-1580. $$***

PIZZA: **CONANS PIZZA** Thick, cheesy Chicago deep dish by the slice or pie. The lunch buffet will satisfy your appetite without emptying your wallet. ***2018 W. Stassney, 441-6754.*** **www.conanspizza.com**. ***$$***

TEX-MEX: **CHUY'S** Hubcaps, colored lights, and a Velvet Elvis – this is Austin-style Tex-Mex at its tacky, funky best. Almost always busy. ***1728 Barton Springs, 474-4452.*** **www.chuys.com**. ***$$***

TEX-MEX: **TORCHY'S TACOS** Have a Damn Good taco (the Ranch Hand is highly recommended) or build your own breakfast taco anytime. ***1207 S. First, 366-0537. $***

UT

AMERICAN CAFE: **HOLE IN THE WALL** Music: It's not just for breakfast anymore. Food is finally back on the menu here. Try a burger at one of the picnic tables in back. ***2538 Guadalupe, 477-4747.*** **www.holeinthewallaustin.com**. ***$***

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: **METRO** Juan Valdez meets Metropolis in this industrially outfitted 24-hour java joint. Also featuring a limited selection of American cafe food. ***2222 Guadalupe, 474-5730. $$***

BRAZILIAN: **SÃO PAULO'S** Offering Tex-Mex dishes as well as Brazilian cuisine, like their version of the national dish, *feijoada*; the constantly changing daily specials shouldn't be missed. ***2809 San Jacinto, 473-9988. $$***

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP, DELIVERY: **FOODHEADS** Morning fare consists of cappuccino, espresso, pastries, and breakfast tacos. By lunchtime, you can choose from a staggering array of sandwiches, soups, salads, and side dishes. ***616 W. 34th, 420-8400.*** **www.foodheads.com**. ***$***

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: **POTBELLY SANDWICH WORKS** If you are still hungry after an orange dreamsickle smoothie, try one of the dozen or so sandwich options. You really can't beat a fresh lunch option for under $10. ***2316 Guadalupe, 477-0300.*** **www.potbelly.com**. ***$***

MIDDLE EASTERN: **KISMET CAFE** Serving Mediterranean/American cuisine, Philly subs, gyros, and salads. ***411 W. 24th, 236-1811. $$***

PIZZA: **NIKI'S PIZZA** Consistently good, crisp slices of the Big Apple, sold alone or in a pie. Niki's is one of the best pizzas in town, served up with modest panache. ***2021 Guadalupe (Dobie Mall, second floor), 474-1876. $***

SOUTHWESTERN: **MOE'S SOUTHWEST GRILL** You won't find heat lamps at this lunch favorite, but you will find items made-to-order using fresh ingredients. Try the Homewrecker burrito. ***2270 Guadalupe, 478-6637. $***

WEST

AMERICAN CAFE: **GALAXY CAFE** Jetsons-style ambience; counter-service burgers, wraps, sandwiches, soups, and salads; hearty breakfasts daily and served until 4pm on weekends. Wine and beer. ***1000 West Lynn, 478-3434.*** **www.galaxycafeaustin.com**. ***$$***

BURGER JOINT: **BURGER HOUSE** The only thing better than the burgers is Jack's Famous Fries, liberally doused in their secret herbed salt. And the only thing better than the fries are the hand-made milkshakes. ***4211 Spicewood Springs, 346-7200.*** **www.burgerhouse.com**. ***$***

BURGER JOINT: **TOP NOTCH RESTAURANT** They smear Thousand Island dressing on both sides of a plain, nontoasted roll. The large, hand-formed, charbroiled patty is enhanced by good-quality lettuce and tomatoes. ***7525 Burnet, 452-2181. $***

CHINESE: **CHINATOWN** Chef's Specials shine – try the Crunchy Rabbit in Orange Sauce, Crispy Whole Fish in Red Chili Sauce, or the Peppercorn Chicken for proof. ***3407 Greystone, 343-9307. $$***

INDIAN: **STAR OF INDIA** The house specialty is the Maharaja Dinner, a spread fit for royalty. Lesser mortals will be sated by one of the biryanis, or a tangy vindaloo. ***2900 W. Anderson, 452-8199.*** **www.starofindiaaustin.com**. ***$$***

INTERNATIONAL: **THE VERANDA** Situated in Northcross Mall; the proprietors promise to still be there in 20 years. They have a terrific selection of appetizers and entrées such as the Leg of Lamb Pomegranate. ***2525 W. Anderson, 300-2660.*** **www.theverandarestaurantbar.com**. ***$$***

ITALIAN: **CARRABBA'S ITALIAN GRILL** Order from the pasta bar, sample one of the wood-fired pizzas, or choose a grilled specialty. The menu also includes the requisite manicotti, lasagna, and spaghetti options. ***11590 Research, 345-8232.*** **www.carrabbas.com**. ***$$$***

SEAFOOD: **CATFISH PARLOUR** When the gang's hungry, take a crowd to eat in, or arrange to have them cater your next outdoor fish fry. ***11910 Research, 258-1853.*** **www.catfishparlour.com**. ***$$***

444-6016 • 1701 W. BEN WHITE • SOUTH AUSTIN
MON-FRI 10-8 SAT 10-7 SUN 12-6

Celebrate with
Friends and Family
during the Holidays
at the Rio!

476.8300
Downtown, 3rd and San Jacinto
The Rio Grande Mexican Restaurant
www.riograndemexican.com

riojoice

Aster's Ethiopian Restaurant
THE ONLY ETHNIC ETHIOPIAN CUISINE IN AUSTIN

$1.00 OFF #18
Vegetarian Special
Present coupon when ordering

New Hours!
Open 11am-9pm Sun-Thu, 11am-10pm Fri & Sat
closed Monday

2804 North IH-35 (512) 469-5966
(northwest corner of IH-35 access and Dean Keeton)

MAIKO
SUSHI LOUNGE

THE PLACE TO BE
CASUAL LUNCH,
STYLISH DINNER.

TUESDAY
LADIES NIGHT
DJ + SPECIALS
LIVE MUSIC THURSDAYS

ALL NIGHT SUSHI HAPPY HOUR
AT THE BAR & SUSHI BAR
SUNDAY & MONDAY NIGHTS

DJ FRI & SAT

PRIVATE DINING ROOM
WITH KARAOKE

(512) 236 9888
311 WEST 6TH STREET
WWW.MAIKOAUSTIN.COM

The Alligator Grill

HAPPY HOUR EVERY DAY
3-7PM
10¢ SHRIMP
25¢ OYSTERS
35¢ WINGS!

www.thealligatorgrill.com
ZYDECO w/ DR.ZOG EVERY TUES.
(512) 444-6117 · 3003 S. Lamar
SOUTH AUSTIN

Modern Latin American Cuisine
Doña Emilia's
Love where you eat
Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

4th Annual New Years Eve
Celebration with a magnificent
4-course Pre-fixe menu
by Chef Alejandro
Enjoy music from 9pm to 1am
with award winning salsa/
meringue band, Cienfuegos
Two separate seating's
at 5pm and at 8pm
$29-$69 Per Person

Now Open for Breakfast
Gourmet Breakfast Tacos
7 a.m. Tues.-Sat.

www.donaemilias.com
101 San Jacinto 478-2520

SHOAL CREEK SALOON
Catfish Color T.V.
909 N. Lamar 512.474.0805

DINNER DEALS
(after 4 pm)

Sunday and Monday
Chicken Fried Steak
with mashed potatoes, gravy, and green beans (only $5.59)

Tuesday
Chicken Fried Chicken
with mashed potatoes, gravy, and green beans (only $5.59)

Wednesday
Austin's Best Pork Chop
with mashed potatoes, gravy, and green beans (only $8.99)
Or try...
The Shoal Creek Combo
Choose Two: Catfish, Oysters, Shrimp, Crawfish
(only $6.59)

Thursday
Nolan Ryan Steak Night
16 oz. Ribeye with french fries (only $12.95)
Or try a...
Big Ol' Bowl of Etouffee
(only $5.59)

Friday
Grilled Salmon
with wild rice and steamed vegetables
(only $9.99)

www.shoalcreeksaloon.com

RISTORANTE
STORTINI
ITALIANO

By the FINE FOLKS who BROUGHT YOU

RED HOUSE
BAR | LOUNGE | PATIO

El Chilito Tacos y Cafe

El Chile
Cafe y Cantina

1917 MANOR ROAD | WWW.STORTINI-AUSTIN.COM | 391-9500

screens

62 STEVE BILICH'S 'NATIVE NEW YORKER' **65** TV EYE **86** FILM LISTINGS

Local scribes (l-r) Stephen Harrigan, Turk Pipkin, and Tim McCanlies gathered outside the Paramount Theatre last Thursday to protest for writers' rights.

JOHN ANDERSON

Rally 'Round the Writers

Local WGA members take part in Day of Action

Boston-based actor Jaime de la Rosa is visiting his family for the holidays. But when the Screen Actors Guild member heard there was a Writers Guild of America rally in Downtown Austin last week, he wanted to show his solidarity. WGA members – television and film writers – have been on strike going on seven weeks. De la Rosa's support was evident, even if difficult to articulate.

"I'm here because as an actor, you know, it's important to support them … um, as a member of the business, it's important. You know, they're going for something important." After a few more false starts de la Rosa blurted:

"I need my script! I'm an actor!"

De la Rosa joined about 30 others in a Day of Action rally outside the Paramount Theatre last Thursday. The location was chosen for its visibility and to put an Austin face on the WGA strike. Of the estimated 120 WGA members in Texas, approximately 80 live in Austin, according to strike co-captain Chris Mass. The turnout was small when compared to rallies in New York or Los Angeles, but the stakes are the same.

While new media is at the top of the WGA agenda, there are other issues bringing attention to the fact that the old way of doing business is in need of a major overhaul.

"A big issue for me is animation," said Tim McCanlies. The Austin-based screenwriter's credits include *Secondhand Lions* and the animated feature *Iron Giant*. A critical success, a huge video hit, and two special-edition DVDs later, *Iron Giant* has played all over the world. Any writer would be happy with that kind of success except for one thing: McCanlies does not profit from it.

"When the Writers Guild was forming, the cartoonists union ended up handling any writing done for animation," McCanlies explains. "So, though I wrote *Iron Giant*, I get no residuals for it. You write a script for an animated film just like you do for a movie. There really is no difference."

The last WGA strike in 1988 lasted five months. Though no one wants to be on strike, all were digging in for the long haul. De la Rosa was at no loss for words when it came to explaining why. "Writers are extremely important in the business. They're the backbone of the industry. That's why I'm here." – *Belinda Acosta*

What's It Good For?

Kevin Booth examines our country's disastrous War on Drugs

BY JOSH ROSENBLATT

Six years and countless billions of dollars into the global war on terror, it's clear we're in this thing for the long haul. Fortunately for our current policy-makers, the United States has a little experience waging perpetual war against nebulous foes. Take our War on Drugs, now 36 going on 37, which is the perfect example of a war without end, one waged by an ideologically entrenched government against multiple invincible enemies. Each year the budget for this war grows larger, and each year it becomes more profitable for those who support it. Turns out there's money to be made in selling supplies to people bringing drugs into this country *and* in incarcerating those unlucky enough to get caught holding them.

This is the tangled world director/writer/former Austinite Kevin Booth dives into with his new documentary, *American Drug War: The Last White Hope*, which is having its Austin premiere this Thursday, Dec. 20, at Antone's before screening on Showtime in March. The film is a two-hour trip through the looking glass of American drug policy, taking viewers from the crack-strewn streets of Los Angeles to the meth-fueled prisons of Arizona, from the halls of Congress to Booth's own family kitchen, in an effort to make sense of a national drug policy that manages to cost $60 billion a year and imprison 1 million nonviolent offenders yet has no discernible effect on the sale or use of drugs. Along the way, Booth introduces us to soldiers from all sides of the war (any movie that features interviews with comedian Tommy Chong, a former drug czar, and the founder of the Bloods street gang is doing something right) and takes us inside the vast, corporate prison-industrial complex/CIA-funded machine profiting off its proliferation.

If you're beginning to suspect *American Drug War* is some kind of conspiracy movie (a suspicion that won't be allayed by the fact that Thursday's premiere is being hosted by Alex Jones), Booth assures me the facts are much more harrowing than any theory could ever be. While shooting the film over 4½ years (during which time he saw several friends and family members die as a result of their own legal addictions to alcohol, tobacco, and over-the-counter medications), he says, "I learned that you don't need to use conspiracy theories to expose what's going on with our government or our world these days."

"Most generations have their own war," he continues. "My parents fought in World War II, but what's going on with this new era of corporatism really is our generation's war. When private corporations become responsible for imprisoning us, sickening us, looting us, I think it's a war." In other words, the Drug War now exists on three fronts: the war against the distributors, the war against the users, and now the war by concerned Americans against government institutions and corporate entities profiting off the casualties of fronts one and two. Who needs bin Laden when we've got ourselves to fight?

American Drug War: The Last White Hope *screens Thursday, Dec. 20, 6pm at Antone's. For more information, visit* **www.americandrugwar.com**.

American Drug War: The Last White Hope

AUSTIN FILM CRITICS ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES TOP PIC(K)S

In its second year of operation, the Austin Film Critics Association has pretty handily anointed the not-yet-released *There Will Be Blood* as the best film of the year. The AFCA – whose membership includes local critics from daily newspapers, weekly alternatives, monthly magazines, television, and online video and review sites – also continues its love affair with Ellen Page, who won Best Actress last year for her work in *Hard Candy* and takes the prize again for her portrayal of a smart-mouthed pregnant teen in *Juno*. To learn more about the AFCA, visit **www.austinfilmcritics.com**.

TOP 10:
There Will Be Blood
No Country for Old Men
Juno
Into the Wild
3:10 to Yuma
Knocked Up
Before the Devil Knows You're Dead
Atonement
American Gangster
Eastern Promises

Best Film: *There Will Be Blood*
Best Director: Paul Thomas Anderson (*There Will Be Blood*)
Best Actor: Daniel Day-Lewis (*There Will Be Blood*)
Best Actress: Ellen Page (*Juno*)
Best Supporting Actor: Javier Bardem (*No Country for Old Men*)
Best Supporting Actress: Allison Janney (*Juno*)
Best Foreign Film: *Black Book*
Best Documentary: *The King of Kong: A Fistful of Quarters*
Best Animated Film: *Ratatouille*
Best First Film: Ben Affleck (*Gone Baby Gone*)
Best Original Screenplay: Diablo Cody (*Juno*)
Best Adapted Screenplay: Joel and Ethan Coen (*No Country for Old Men*)
Best Cinematography: Robert Elswit (*There Will Be Blood*)
Best Original Score: Jonny Greenwood (*There Will Be Blood*)
Breakthrough Artist: Michael Cera (*Superbad*, *Juno*)
Austin Film Award: *Grindhouse*

Fresh, Made to Order Contemporary Asian Cuisine
Signature Entrées • Steam Bowls • Noodle Bowls • Soups • Salads
Quality Wine, Beer and Sake | Free WiFi
DINE IN • TAKE-OUT • CATERING • DELIVERY
Live Music on Weekends! Go to mamafusaustin.com for details.
Hwy 183 at Lakeline Blvd • 637-6771 | The Grove at Southpark Meadows • 637-6772

AZIZ
SALON, DAY SPA & SKIN WELLNESS CENTER
Elegant Sophistication in Beauty
Serving Austin for 33 Years

Day of Beauty Makeovers
Hair Designers
Master Color Specialists
Curly Hair Experts
Great Lengths Hair Extensions
Professional/Clinical Hand & Foot Services
Professional Airbrush Make-Up Artist

Skin Facial Services
IPL/Photofacial Rejuvenation
Laser/IPL Hair Removal
Refreshing Spa/Body Treatments
Professional Waxing
Extraordinary Massage Services

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE/BUY ON-LINE
SkinCeuticals, Dermalogica, Obagi, Cosmedix, Glo Minerals, Wella System Professional, Kinerase, Curlisto
NEW LOCATION!! 5400 BRODIE LN. • 512.891.0420 (SUNSET VALLEY IN THE ACADEMY CENTER)
512.476.4131 • 710 W. 7TH • AZIZSALON.COM • OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

saba
blue water cafe

Join us for Happy Hour seven nights a week; featuring $5 shareable plates and half price specialty drinks

Now booking holiday parties; for private events, please contact Amy: 913-3289

208 w 4th / www.sabacafe.com / 478-7222

MáLaga
Tapas & Bar

New Years Eve Celebration
December 31ST

Open to the public from 5–8p.m.
8p.m. — Last Seating

9p.m. & On — $15 per person
includes Midnight Champagne!
Call 913-3289 to reserve your spot.

208 W. 4th Street • Warehouse District • 512.236.8020
21 and older • www.malagatapasbar.com

Planning the perfect party!
Contact Amy:
512. 913.3289
amymccall@208events.com

208
Entertainment & Event Group

Two Towers, Six Years, and 16 Millimeters

The remarkable journey – and uncertain toll – of Steve Bilich's 'Native New Yorker'

BY MARC SAVLOV

Every film has a backstory just like every life has a history, but rarely do the two commingle to such a fantastic and phantasmagoric degree as they do in Austin filmmaker Steve Bilich's 13-minute short "Native New Yorker," which took home the Best Documentary Short award at the 2006 Tribeca Film Festival.

The twin stories of Steve Bilich and the film he made are, quite literally, the stuff dreams – and nightmares – are made of. They're silver-nitrate flickers backdropped against X-rays and MRI scans, and they teem with the pedestrian ghosts of strangers and the tangible memories of friends. They're remarkable not only for the skill, luck, and sheer universal coincidences that had to align before this particular filmmaker could take home that particular award but for the very fact that they exist at all.

Bilich's cinematic record of his home at that time, Manhattan, encapsulates everything from the history of the island of Manhattan and its long-gone native inhabitants to the history of Gotham City's skyline and its not-so-long-gone landmark twins. And it's the story of Bilich himself, the son of an actress, who just happened to be in the right place at the right time or, as he puts it, "the wrong place at the wrong time that turned out to be right after all."

It's a film, too, whose physical toll is only slowly becoming apparent: As one of thousands of 9/11 "first responders," Bilich is at an exponentially higher risk for respiratory and pulmonary ailments. In the past few months, a chest X-ray turned up a spot on his lung, and although his recent biopsy came back negative, there's still that nagging spot (a second biopsy will be done), a noticeably reduced lung capacity, and other respiratory ills that "come and go." This is, sadly, status quo for nearly all of the surviving first responders of 9/11.

Visually, "Native New Yorker" follows Bilich's friend and shaman trail scout Terry "Coyote" Murphy (half-Cherokee and half-Irish, shirtless and braided, and how's *that* for a native New Yorkian genome-scramble?) as he traverses from Inwood Hill Park – where Manhattan was "bought" with booze and beads in 1625 after Henry Hudson discovered the island on Sept. 11, 1609 – to not far from the World Trade Center, which plumes smoke in the background as emergency vehicles jitter in and out of frame, trailing ashy tendrils in their magnificently unnerving wake. It's *that* day, yes, but this is less a record of horror than of surreality. You watch it once and then, immediately, again and again, peeling back the layers of inadvertent meaning and accidental metaphor, as the black-and-white, 16mm photography exposes and overexposes red skins, white skins, black skins, and brown skins. Surely this was planned. Surely it had to be. But no.

Narratively, the very fact that Bilich's film exists was made possible only by a looping chain of coincidence and chance, luck and adversity, earthshaking historical events, and the most mundane aspects of the filmmaking life, like, for instance, scraping together enough change to pay for lab processing. Or, say, buying a battered old camera at a Manhattan flea market.

□

"I was born and bar mitzvahed in the bayou," says Bilich, by way of introduction. (Full disclosure: I've known and been a friend of Bilich's since I wrote about his debut feature, *Ruta Wakening*, in 1994.) Despite having spent nearly a full year of his life working at Ground Zero – and accruing the incipient physiological and mental damages that have, over time, become all-too-common in 9/11 first responders – he looks like the proverbial million bucks. He is, as ever, quick with a joke, a smile, always asking how *you* are. This will be the first time I've heard the full story of how "Native New Yorker" came to be and what, exactly, happened on that awful day, and although emotion sometimes lodges in his throat, Bilich is remarkably composed in the telling.

(Which is pretty remarkable in and of itself: Bilich lost a lot of friends on 9/11, including several from New York City Fire Department's Ten House, or Engine 10/Ladder 10, whose firehouse was within striking distance of the World Trade Center. His best friend, fireman Bobby Beddia of Engine 24, perished along with FDNY partner Joseph Graffagnino while battling the Deutsche Bank conflagration this past August. Because the Deutsche Bank had been heavily damaged on 9/11 – in news photos, it's the one covered in black netting – and had no functioning standpipe, the Fire Department had to raise hoses from street level. Six years on, and 9/11 isn't over yet, not by a long shot.)

"The evolution of 'Native New Yorker' was a series of trials and errors," Bilich explains. "It was originally called 'Native American in Manhattan' and was a seven-minute-long short that was edited together by my friend [and Continental Club co-founder] Jack Hazzard while I was still at Ground Zero collecting dust in my lungs."

Two years before, on a visit to Manhattan, Bilich's mother, an actress, cajoled her son into accompanying her to what was then a vibrant flea market at 26th Street and Sixth Avenue.

Bilich explains: "She said, 'Maybe you'll find an old camera,' and it was almost as if she knew. Moms know, right? So we go to the market, and lo and behold, I end up buying this beautiful 1924 Cine-Kodak, hand-crank, spring-loaded camera from an Australian Aborigine – a 'native Australian,' if you will – for $9 and change, which, adjusted to today's U.S. dollars, was more than the native American aboriginals got for the island of Manhattan."

And that was just the beginning of Bilich's luck.

"Later on, I called Kodak to see if I could find some film for this thing, and I ended up on the line with Steve Garfinkel, who just happened to be the expert on that particular type of camera. And he sent me two cases of 7231 16-millimeter film for that camera – for free! He just gave it to me. It was like I was on this journey, and I was being handed everything I need to complete it, wherever it might lead. I kid you not. At every turn, literally, fate, destiny, God, call it what you want – I've been given exactly what I need. I told [Garfinkel], 'I will make a great movie someday with this little camera, I promise you.'"

Which is what happened, although two years passed in the meantime. Two weeks to the day before 9/11, Bilich, whose normal 9am bike ride took him around the twin towers and over to the West Side Highway, found himself, completely by happenstance, at Pier 34.

"That's where I met Terry 'Coyote' Murphy," recalls Bilich. "He was just sitting on the edge of the air duct – which has since been made inaccessible – smoking some herb and talking to the shaman. I'd never seen him before in my life, but I got off my bike and walked over to him, and we shared a peace pipe and had a little powwow. At the time I told him I was shooting a film with this old camera I had and asked him if he wanted to be in it.

"You know, even then it was all very surreal, because we were watching the shadows of the airplanes taking off from LaGuardia, and the shadows would climb up and cut through the towers. And I thought it would be great to get this Native American, this American aboriginal, with his ponytails and that profile, in front of the twin towers, which were, after all, the tallest canvas in the city. I thought maybe if I timed it right and got lucky, I could get the towers, Coyote, and the shadow of a plane all in the same shot.

"And then, having smoked the pipe, I completely forgot to trade contact info with him, and I didn't see Coyote again until exactly two weeks after that."

□

Everyone who was even tangentially involved with the city of New York on September 11 has a story, and every story is valid and unique and integral to that person's view of themselves. What not all 9/11 stories have, and what makes Bilich's story so compelling – and, by extension, the story of his film – is a single twist of fate (or destiny or plain old dumb luck): While heading down, Steve Bilich rounded a corner and ran smack dab in to Terry "Coyote" Murphy.

Bilich: "I was under the weather the morning of 9/11, so I didn't follow my normal routine. No bike ride, right? I'm sitting in my apartment, it's around 9am, and my mom calls me on the phone. She says, 'Turn on the TV!' and I say, 'I can't hear you; there's an airplane.' And it was the second jet, flying right over my house. I couldn't hear my mom, telling me to turn on the TV, because of the deafening sound of the plane hitting the second tower.

"Like everyone else, I ran outside to see what I can see because I couldn't understand what I saw when I turned the television on, you know? My roommate was urging me to take the camera with me, but for some reason I kept saying, 'No, no. I'm not going to take the camera.' And – that time – I didn't. Instead, I rode my bike down to the front of the north tower. I was standing there, trying to help, but not knowing where to begin. This was before they came down. You didn't know; you couldn't imagine.

"Then you start to see something that you don't understand. And you look again, and you still don't quite grasp it because your sane mind won't let you. And it's people, jumping, and they're landing really close to me. Disintegrating next to me. *On* me. And at some point I began to try to ride my bike home, but I couldn't make my legs function. I was in shock. When I got back to my apartment, I was a bloody fucking mess, and I had not been hit by anything. It was other people's blood. And I washed up, changed clothes, and went back out. This time I took the camera with me.

"Instead of going back down to the towers, I went directly west to Greenwich and then Washington and saw the smoke billowing off toward Brooklyn. And right then I looked up, and there was Coyote. I just looked at him, and he said to me, just kind of matter-of-factly: 'So, is that the camera? You wanna shoot me now?' And in my head, which is already spinning, I'm thinking, you know, 'Who sent this?!' I don't know. It was another moment, another step in what was beginning to feel more and more like some predestined journey I was on. I mean, really, what are the odds?"

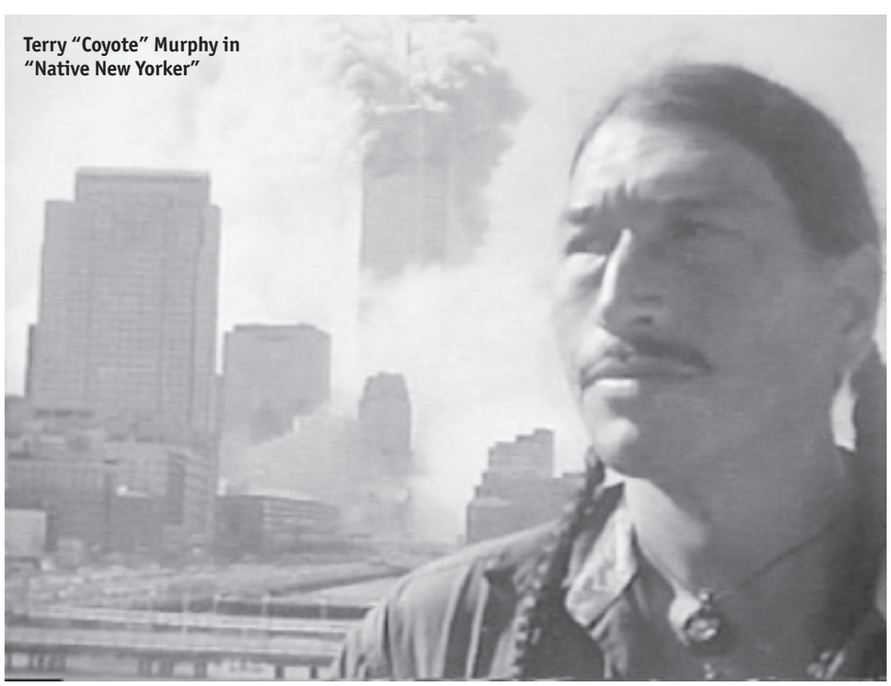
Over the course of that day, Steve Bilich the filmmaker put away his camera and became Steve Bilich the volunteer, handing out water bottles to rescue workers, taking donations to purchase groceries for firefighters at the nearby D'Agostinos Supermarket, and trying to stay sane by staying busy. According to him, that's what a lot of people did. Not all, but more than you'd think. Eventually, Bilich logged almost a full year at Ground Zero.

"I was just one of thousands of people who ran toward the towers when everyone else ran away from them, but there was nothing special about my actions on that day," says Bilich.

"I will say, for the record, that the people I saw die the quickest, in the hours after both towers had fallen, were, ironically, the illegal immigrants, the dishwashers, busboys, janitors, and so on, and *they* died because they were usually smaller of stature than the big, burly FDNY and NYPD guys and therefore could slip into the crevices and holes in the rubble where, we assumed, there might be survivors. I'm not kidding. Many of them didn't even speak English, but they were the first ones there, the first civilians in the area, because of their jobs. These forever-unknown guys were and are heroes. Before that began to happen, they were sending in dogs – police dogs, rescue dogs – but the dogs would die almost instantly, incinerated by the fires below, which, as we know, burned for months afterward."

There were, it's common knowledge now, no respirators available to volunteers early on.

continued on p.64



Terry "Coyote" Murphy in "Native New Yorker"

Osaka Mansun
Japanese & Korean Cuisine & Sushi Bar
Asian Tapas
Nightly Specials
Fresh Delicious Sushi
13492 Research Blvd. #160 • 918-8012
Mon.-Thurs.: 11am-10pm • Fri.:11am-10:30pm
Sat.: 12-10:30pm • Closed Sunday

ARC
ARMSTRONG REPAIR CENTER, INC.
FACTORY PARTS AND SERVICE
FOR COMMERCIAL COOKING EQUIPMENT
2215 Woodward Austin, TX 78744
800-392-5322 512-416-1101
USE THIS AD FOR $25 OFF FOR FIRST TIME CUSTOMERS

GYRO PLUS
Authentic Mediterranean food prepared fresh daily using only the best ingredients
GYRO, FRIES, GREEK SALAD, FALAFEL, MOUSSAKA
7329 BURNET ROAD | 1 MILE SOUTH OF ANDERSON
512/451-0677 | M-SAT 11-9:30PM | CLOSED SUNDAY
FREE GYRO WITH ANY GYRO PURCHASE
Hookah Lounge
LOUNGE OPEN UNTIL 11PM

KOBE
JAPANESE STEAKHOUSE
(512) 288-7333
N 183 & Anderson Mill Rd.
OPEN CHRISTMAS EVE & DAY AND NEW YEAR'S DAY
RESTAURANT HOURS: OPEN EVERY DAY 11AM – 10PM

Most people used surgical or painting masks, neither of which could adequately filter out the microscopic particles of pulverized debris that hung over Lower Manhattan for months, as subterranean fires burned at temperatures higher than 2,000 degrees. 3M eventually donated truckloads of them, but it was, as Bilich says, "a day late and a dollar short."

"With the exception of going to Sundance, I was right in the thick of it for near on a whole year. I became a FDNY consultant – not a firefighter – which means that I was a voice for firefighters, chiefly against their own department. Most of what I did was make sure that the families of these heroes, the wives and the children and the brothers and the sisters, could get on with their lives by having their [Federal Emergency Management Agency] contracts filled out, making burial arrangements, getting flowers – you name it, I did it.

"And in the meantime Jack Hazzard took the footage I shot that day and created the first version of the film, *his* version, which is the one that went to Sundance."

□

By yet another coincidence, former 8½ Souvenirs manager and onetime adviser to LBJ Jack Hazzard lived just a few blocks from Bilich in Lower Manhattan and ran in to him while the former was day-jobbing it at a neighborhood watering hole.

"I was actually down at the site when things began to happen," Hazzard says. "I was at Bubby's restaurant, at Franklin and Hudson, and I saw on television the first plane hit. Like most people, I assumed it was a small plane, and I was curious how they were going to put the fire out, and so I walked outside and over to the base of the buildings. And while I was standing there, the second plane hit, and the engine from that plane actually went right over my head. I was a lot closer to the site than I should have been. But I thought maybe there was something I could do to help.

"Then I walked home, which was a quarter- or half-mile away, straight down Greenwich Street, stopped at the grocery and bought a bunch of food, and then holed up for about two weeks."

In the interim, Hazzard contacted Bilich, who mentioned he had shot some footage of the towers on 9/11 but was unable to come up with the processing fees. Hazzard, sensing an opportunity to use creativity to work out some of the 9/11-related demons in his own head, told Bilich he'd pick up the processing and transfer-to-video tabs if the filmmaker would allow him a chance to edit the film into … *something*. Bilich, still working at Ground Zero and too close to the subject matter to consider doing an edit of his own at the time, readily agreed.

Hazzard: "I took that raw footage over to the headquarters of the Bertelsmann Media Group [where he was giving a presentation] and edited it on their AVIDs with one of their engineers and then had a friend run down to Virgin Music to get some music, which was Mozart's *Requiem*. I did a linear cut, to the Mozart, and while I'm no filmmaker and I have no background in filmmaking, I cut Steve's raw footage to *Requiem* and, miraculously, it worked!

"I'm hesitant to even call what I made from Steve's footage a 'film.' I wanted it to show the *feeling* of that day more than the events themselves, you see? It didn't show the gore, the people jumping, none of that. It's almost like an old newsreel. And it took me about two hours from the time I started to do it."

□

Hazzard's initial cut of the film was entered in that year's Sundance, which gave Bilich some much needed time off from Ground Zero. Entered out of competition, it provoked divergent reactions from the audience, with some calling it "exploitive" and others praising its somber, poetic lyricism. One person who was moved immensely was Palo Alto-based composer William Susman, who offered to compose an original score to replace Mozart's *Requiem*. Bilich, realizing that at some point in the future he and Terry "Coyote" Murphy would continue filming their own version of "Native American in Manhattan," agreed to Susman's idea, and the composer eventually came onboard the Bilich bandwagon in a co-producer capacity, as well.

Steve Bilich (l) with festival co-founder Robert De Niro

Talking With Tribeca

Jon Gartenberg, short documentary and experimental film programmer for the Tribeca Film Festival, talks about what attracted him to "Native New Yorker":

"I am a film historian, and I've been watching silent films for a long time, and I can tell when something is very uniquely created, and that was my first response to Steve's film. It's not formulaic or routine or glossy at all. This is not a film that was going to get anyone an agent or a Hollywood deal; it's a very personal film, and that's the first thing that impressed me about it.

"The second thing I found intriguing was that, yes, it does have a 9/11 element to it, but you don't find that out until much later in the film, so that it takes on a much more intense emotional resonance. What's interesting about that is the fact that at Tribeca, which was founded coming out of 9/11, we still get films that refer to 9/11, but it's no longer the central or main premise of film. There's a certain subtlety that's emerged over time, and Steve's film is a perfect example of that.

"And the third thing that attracted me to 'Native New Yorker' is the fact that it fit into what I call the tradition of the city symphony films. Usually these were old, silent films that attempted to show the life of a city from morning to night. Steve's film is more structured geographically, from Upper Manhattan to Lower Manhattan, and so, to me, it's a city symphony functioning on a different level. And, also, it was made with this old, historical camera. It's a document of history created by a piece of history, if that makes sense."

"I approached Steve at Sundance for two reasons," says Susman. "I was moved and very affected by the events of 9/11, and, from an artistic standpoint, I realized that the film was silent and that it could use a contemporary score, something that resonated with contemporary audiences rather than the Mozart, which was written for a totally different audience and purpose.

"Subsequently, several years later, Steve created the 13-minute film 'Native New Yorker,' an expansion on the six-minute 'Native American in Manhattan,' and sent it to me to score, which I did while also taking on the duties of executive producer and getting the finished film out onto the festival circuit. And it was the people at the Vancouver International Film Festival in 2005 that suggested we submit it to Tribeca. They knew Peter Scarlet, the head programmer. And that proved to be exactly the right festival at exactly the right time. It was like it was made for Tribeca."

"Native New Yorker" took home the Best Documentary Short prize at the 2006 Tribeca Film Festival, bringing both film and filmmaker full circle. (It also won the Gold Medal for Excellence at the Park City Film Music Festival and the Columbine Award at the Moondance International Film Festival.) And as of two weeks ago, it's being distributed and can be viewed online at Austin indie film distro company B-Side (**www.bside.com**).

□

Right now, though, I'm sitting at the dinner table with my old friend Steve Bilich, who's currently prepping a theatrical production of *Harold & Maude*, to be performed in February at Mercury Hall. At 46, he doesn't look old at all and, despite his emergent health issues, sounds, frankly, a hell of a lot healthier than I do with my complimentary double whammy of allergies and asthma. I ask him how he's holding up and what he's doing for his health. Bilich notes that there, too, he's been luckier than many.

"I'm very fortunate to be a part of the Mount Sinai medical-monitoring program. It's a program that was set up for first responders, including firefighters, policemen, Port Authority people, construction workers, those sort of people. I'm able to take part in that because I was a volunteer who became a hire before becoming an FDNY consultant. They're based out of Washington, D.C., and connected to the AOEC, the Association of Occupational and Environmental Clinics [see "Health Woes for First Responders," below]. These are the people who countered … claims that the air quality around Ground Zero was safe. It wasn't safe at all, and everyone knows it. The AOEC are the ones who gave the physicals and checked first responders out from top to bottom. They're the ones who are continuing to monitor the health of people like me.

"And now that I'm back living in Austin, it seems like there's even more of the patented Bilich luck in the fact that Austin has so many top-notch doctors who deal with respiratory and pulmonary illnesses on a daily basis thanks to the homegrown allergies in Central Texas. And they also deal with extreme cases such as my own. Another fortuitous coincidence, right?"

It's a true-life adventure almost too much to believe, I tell him. If you put it in screenplay form, you'd probably be laughed off the Paramount lot.

I ask him, "What does it mean? To you?"

"Everything leads to something," Bilich tells me. "It was not to the benefit of my lungs to be there that day or to run into Terry 'Coyote' Murphy that morning, completely by accident, or to have in my possession this ancient Cine-Kodak camera and the film to put into it or to do what I did, any of it, all of it. But there's got to be a reason, and I think, in one respect, certainly, the win at Tribeca proved that. A thousand random things had to happen *just so* for me, and this film to end up where we did, and, you know, it really just proves that old saying: Truth is stranger than fiction. It really is."

And dreams, in the end, are stronger than nightmares. ■

For more information about "Native New Yorker" and William Susman's original score, visit **www.nativenewyorkerfilm.com** *and* **www.susmanmusic.com**. *To learn more about the Association of Occupational and Environmental Clinics, which monitors the health of 9/11 first responders, visit* **www.aeoc.org**.

HEALTH WOES FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

Katherine Kirkland, executive director of the Association of Occupational and Environmental Clinics, speaks about monitoring the health of first responders:

"AOEC is a network of clinics throughout the United States. One of our main clinics is Mount Sinai in NYC, and in post-9/11, when it began to become apparent to the physicians at Mount Sinai that a lot of the workers were having health issues, they arranged for medical monitoring exams. This was in 2003-2004.

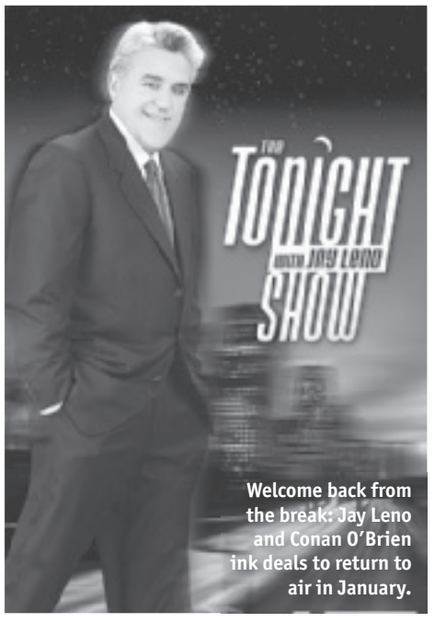
"Thanks to the Red Cross, who made several awards, including one to AOEC, we're now able to pay for further evaluation *and* treatment, of World Trade Center first responders through AOEC. That's where Steve comes in, and he's pretty typical of the types of illnesses we've seen from 9/11.

"Primarily, what we've been seeing is respiratory, upper-respiratory, persistent cough, some lower-respiratory things that are just starting to appear. Things like gastroesophageal reflux disease. These are all pretty common for 9/11 first responders, like Steve. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health [www.cdc.gov/niosh] has a list of illnesses that the federal government is paying for – those in the 9/11 area – and then our Red Cross grants help cover those people who don't live in New York, such as firefighters from out of state who came to help out at Ground Zero."

Contact: **www.aoec.org.**

A Late-Night Fix

BY BELINDA ACOSTA



Welcome back from the break: Jay Leno and Conan O'Brien ink deals to return to air in January.

It's been six long weeks. How am I supposed to learn about the latest congressional page scandal or what **Al Gore** said about global warning when he accepted his Nobel Peace Prize or what it means now that **Mike Huckabee** is gaining some steam in his presidential campaign without my faux news program ***The Daily Show With Jon Stewart*** or barbed remarks from ***Real Time With Bill Maher***? No word yet on either of those shows, but – if all goes as reported at press time – at least two late-night talkers will return to the air in early 2008. ***The Tonight Show With Jay Leno*** and ***Late Night With Conan O'Brien*** (both on NBC) are returning to the air on Jan. 2, according to multiple sources.

Both Leno and O'Brien are Writers Guild of America members, but they are the only writing staff returning to their respective shows. The decision was made as an effort to honor the strike while still allowing their large support staff to avoid being laid off. Although Leno and O'Brien have previously stepped up to cover their staff's salaries, once negotiations between the WGA and the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers faltered in early December, the late-night hosts found themselves between a rock and a hard place. They could allow their staffs to be laid off without pay, or they could continue banking the staff payroll indefinitely until the strike was settled.

In a parallel move, Worldwide Pants (David Letterman's production company) is seeking the WGA's blessing for an interim deal with CBS to bring the ***Late Show With David Letterman*** and ***The Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson*** back on the air with one, big difference: Writers would return along with support staff. This deal is possible because Worldwide Pants is an independent production company. The other talk shows are either wholly or partially owned by the networks they appear on.

Right now, it's all wait and see. If a Worldwide Pants deal is to be forged, it will happen after this piece goes to press.

Golden Globe Nominations Announced

Speaking of waiting and seeing, the Golden Globe nominations were recently announced. (For a complete list of nominees, visit **www.goldenglobes.org**.) What is usually occasion for back-patting has been overshadowed by the WGA strike. Who is going to write the show? (Yeah, WGA writers write awards shows, too). They could find nonunion writers to script it, but who would want that on their résumé? There has been talk that the WGA may issue a waiver, allowing nominated screenwriters to appear at the show and perhaps comment on the strike while accepting their awards. If a waiver doesn't happen, there will surely be a WGA picket line outside the Golden Globe venue.

A few of this year's nominees (**Glenn Close**, **Alec Baldwin**, **George Clooney**) have made it clear that they would not, under any circumstances, cross a picket line should the WGA picket on Golden Globes night. Others, like first-time nominee **Christina Applegate** (*Samantha Who?*), are wishy-washy on the subject. Gee, does Applegate think she got a nomination based on her good looks and charm. Oh wait…

There are few surprises on the list of TV nominees, but a few notable exclusions. Where, for example, is a nomination for ***The Riches*** (FX) or ***The Sopranos*** (HBO)? They were not nominated in the Best Television Series-Drama category, while weaker shows like ***Grey's Anatomy*** (ABC) and the wearisome ***House*** (FOX) made the cut. Thankfully, this summer's critically acclaimed ***Mad Men*** (AMC) was recognized.

The Riches' **Minnie Driver** appears among the nominees for Best Performance by an Actress in a Television Series, but her co-star **Eddie Izzard** does not appear in the Best Actor nominees, a real oversight. Together they make an otherwise preposterous premise totally plausible.

For Best Television Series-Musical or Comedy, ***30 Rock*** (NBC) gets my vote. ***Extras*** (HBO) is just as sharp, and its two-hour series finale was particularly barbed, but when it comes right down to it, I want comedies to make me laugh, not feel queasy.

The Best Performance by an Actor in a Television Series-Musical or Comedy field is especially tough with Alec Baldwin (*30 Rock*), **Steve Carell** (***The Office***), and **Ricky Gervais** (*Extras*) in the running. I vote for Baldwin, who brings just the right amount of pomp to a role that could easily be played over the top.

The 65th annual Golden Globes ceremony will be televised live on Jan. 13 at 7pm on NBC.

As always, stay tuned.

E-mail Belinda Acosta at **tveye@austinchronicle.com**.

LAVA JAVA
COFFEE HOUSE
BREAKFAST SPECIAL
2 BREAKFAST TACOS
+12 OZ. COFFEE
FOR $3 +Tax
Free wifi
2901 MEDICAL ARTS 495-9228
LONGHORNPOBOYS-LAVAJAVA.COM

TAQUERIA LAS CAZUELAS
DAILY LUNCH SPECIALS $4.95
MON-FRI SPECIALS
CHILE RELLENOS · FLAUTAS LAREDO
FAJITA PLATE · PORK CARMITAS
CRISPY TACOS $4.95
open everyday & late night
live entertainment on Thursdays
1701 E. CESAR CHAVEZ · 479-7911

ChonSom
ช้อน ส้อม Asian Cuisine & Sushi Bar
"Why Chon Som?"
"Because they know how to keep it hot. Even on a cold night."
Tom Kha Soup
Thai hot & sour soup with coconut milk
OPEN CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY
OPEN TUESDAY-SUNDAY FOR LUNCH AND DINNER
2013 WELLS BRANCH #109 • 512.989.5559 • chonsom.com

SUSHI JAPON 日本
JAPANESE SUSHI BAR & GRILL
NEW SMOKELESS HIBACHI GRILL
CHEF PERSONALLY COOKS FOR YOU RIGHT AT YOUR TABLE
BEST PLACE TO NOT LOSE YOUR TEMPURA
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
SUN-THURS 11AM-10PM
FRI & SAT 11AM-11PM
6801 N. IH-35 (NEXT TO DRURY HOTEL) 512.323.6663 FAX 512.323.6789

T.J.'s
HICKORY HONEY HAMS
Order Your Holiday Hams Now!
Sliced Turkey Breast, Party Trays & Sandwiches
FORMERLY IN THE 26 DOORS CENTER
NOW AT 6701 BURNET ROAD IN THE FARMERS MARKET
458-4267

music

68 MALEKKO HEAVY INDUSTRY **70** GIFT GUIDE: MUSIC DVDs **99** MUSIC LISTINGS

OFF THE RECORD
music news

BY AUSTIN POWELL

HONEYDRIPPER

Austin's best-kept blues secret is coming to a theatre near you. **Gary Clark Jr.** stars alongside **Danny Glover** in ***Honeydripper***, the latest from writer/director **John Sayles** (*Lone Star*, *Men With Guns*). Set during cotton harvest 1950, at the crossroads in Harmony, La., the film focuses on a struggling club owner while vividly portraying the birth of rock & roll as a meaningful, social confluence. Clark plays Sonny, who he describes as "a cat out of the Army, looking for his next meal, his next gig, and determined to hear himself on the radio." "I was a nervous wreck for the first few days, going over lines like 40 times," admits Clark, who met Sayles after a **South by Southwest** performance last year, "but acting is a lot like playing music in some ways. It's about painting a picture, telling a story, and stirring up emotions." Clark spent last summer making the rounds of the blues-festival circuit with the **Honeydripper All-Star Band**, featuring **Stax** and **Motown Records** veteran **Mable John**, keyboardist (and Glover hand double) **Henderson Huggins**, and **Howlin' Wolf**/**Muddy Waters** alumni, saxophonist **Eddie Shaw** and harpist **Arthur Lee Williams**, all of whom have roles in the film and appear on the original soundtrack, due Feb. 5 on **Rhino**. "The whole experience was like getting the privilege to jump back in time, into this juke joint or onto stage with real music legends," Clark concludes. *Honeydripper* opens in New York and Los Angeles next weekend, with Austin scheduled for early 2008, but those wanting a sneak preview can watch Clark in action this Saturday at **Antone's** with **James Bullard**.

Gary Clark Jr. in *Honeydripper*

TODD V. WOLFSON

THE GREAT ESCAPE

Harp magazine recently heralded **Future Clouds & Radar** as the best Debut/New Artist of the year, charting the Austin outfit's eponymous double album at No. 4 in its annual best-of list. With good reason, too: The **Beatles**-esque 27-song, 2-CD collection is a kaleidoscope of playfully experimental pop, rich with dreamlike detail and expansive horn arrangements. "The double record is a challenge, a real commitment for all parties involved," says principal songwriter and former **Cotton Mather** guitarist **Robert Harrison** (pictured). "After taking a sojourn for a few years, I felt a renewed sense of freedom and celebration with music. This was a body of work that kind of revealed itself in one swoop." Released on Harrison's **Star Apple Kingdom** label, the discs debut in Europe in March, complete with a few additional live and acoustic tunes and videos. FC&R headline **Stubb's** on Saturday. "The band is more of a creative community than anything else," Harrison muses. "There's an innocence to the experience that recalls a time when music was less about commodity and more about the actual process of discovery."

OUR LIFE IS NOT A MOVIE OR MAYBE

Last week, **Okkervil River** digitally debuted its *Golden Opportunities Mixtape*, a marvelous live, nine-song covers collection that serves as musical annotation to its poignant pop masterpiece, this year's *The Stage Names*, complete with principal songwriter **Will Sheff**'s personal translation of **Serge Gainsbourg**'s "I Came Here to Say I'm Going Away." "I've always been fascinated with the idea of authorship and identity," relates Sheff. "The way I write and sing is kind of character-based, trying to put myself in a different frame of mind than my own. Even in these love songs written by women, I'm trying to retain their point of view." The Black Sheep Boys are returning to Austin soon to record an official appendix to *The Stage Names* with producer **Brian Beattie**. See **austinchronicle.com/earache** for the rest of the interview with Sheff.

POSSUM KINGDOM

GARY MILLER

Todd Lewis reignites the Toadies.

Following a few less-than-positive progress reports from the *Chronicle* Music staff after **Duran Duran**'s sold-out show last week, OTR stopped off at the **Austin Music Hall** on Friday night for the **Toadies**, who stomped through a blistering set that encapsulated 1990s alternative rock in Texas. The current cause for concern isn't the venue's incompletion but rather more pressing issues like the lack of visibility on the mezzanine level. On the ground floor, meanwhile, the overhang from the second level and the air-conditioning ducts attached to its underside not only create a claustrophobic view in the bottom corners of the hall, but they make it difficult for sound to properly enter the area, registering only the low-end frequencies. "We're still in the process of figuring things out," assures **Direct Events**' **Emily Smith**. "We're planning to install risers on the second floor and delay speakers in the back of the venue." With any luck, both will be in place for the **Pink Floyd Laser Light Show**, Friday, Jan. 11.

JOHN ANDERSON

Tee Double

RETURN OF THE ART FORM

To borrow a line from **Jay-Z**, local rhyme-sayer **Tee Double** is not a businessman; he's a business, man. From his Northeast Austin home, the 34-year-old hip-hop entrepreneur runs **Kinetic Global**, an independent studio, label, and a CD/DVD duplication service that's pressed 13 albums in almost as many years. "I'm trying to develop a business model for other hip-hop artists to follow," says Double, born **Terrany Johnson**, who estimates a total of 80,000 units pushed to date. "This way I can control every step of the operation." Along with licensing music to next year's *The Night Watchman*, a film starring **Keanu Reeves** and **Common**, as well as **MTV**'s *Friday: The Animated Series*, the veteran beatsmith/producer is working on a single with **Ursula 1000** for **Thievery Corporation**'s **Eighteenth Street Lounge Music** and an instrumental album, *Acrobeatics*. "You have to know how to brand yourself," Johnson concludes, "and get out there and hustle."

RANDOM PLAY

This just in: **Lou Reed** has been named **South by Southwest Music Festival** keynote speaker for **2008**. The iconic *Transformer* and former **Velvet Underground** frontman will appear at the **Austin Convention Center** on March 13 in concurrence with the screening of *Lou Reed's Berlin*, a recently filmed concert video directed by Texas-raised filmmaker **Julian Schnabel**. Also confirmed for conversations at the 22nd annual event are composer **Steve Reich** and **Sonic Youth**'s **Thurston Moore**.

Diplo's swank remix of **Spoon**'s "Don't You Evah," exclusively available at **Merge Records**, is probably the best way to spend $1 online. Proceeds benefit the **Texas Criminal Justice Coalition**.

Need a few last-minute gifts? **Wasted Talent Records** has deluxe editions of the **Judy's** *Washarama* and *Moo* available for the first time on CD, expanded to include *The Wonderful World of Appliances* EP and **David Bean**'s solo venture, *Modomusic*, respectively.

The *Chronicle* Music staff is giving away a 30-plus seasonal CD bundle to the first person e-mailing the correct answer to the following question: In ***Saturday Night Live***'s infamous "A **Roy Orbison** Christmas" sketch from 1985, what actor portrayed the "Big O"? E-mail **apowell@austinchronicle.com**.

HEAR TEXAS HERE!

NOW ON OUR LISTENING STATIONS: GREAT NEW MUSIC FROM THE LONE STAR STATE

Grace/ Parkinsong

ANA EGGE
Lazy Days
Lost songs from artists you love–reborn by a voice you'll never forget. Featuring songs written and originally recorded by the Kinks, Arcade Fire, Stephen Stills, Sandy Denny, the Zombies, and more!
$12.99 CD

Misc Music

ALIENS
Head First
Aliens debut album includes tracks with guest drummer Hunt Sales. Engineered by mark Younger-Smith, mastered by Kramer.
$9.99 CD

Freedom

JOHN DEE GRAHAM
Swept Away
A powerful set of Jon Dee's best, recorded live for soon to be released documentary film.
$12.99 CD

Compadre

BILLY JOE SHAVER
Everybody's Brother
"When the country outlaws were collecting their holy writings, Billy Joe Shaver was carving out Exodus."
- *Washington Post*
$13.99 CD

Slow Heavy

FULL STRIDE
Full Stride
Powerhouse two piece rock band from Austin, TX. Heavy pop fuels this CD with pretty vocals from Amber and a heavier growl from Trent.
$8.99 CD

Funzalo

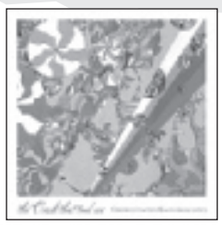
MOTHER TRUCKERS
Broke, Not Broken
Husband and wife Josh Zee and Teal Collins make up the singing and songwriting nucleus of the band, and their chemistry plays out in their seamless harmonies, enviable voices, irreverent lyrics, masterful musicianship and energetic onstage partnership.
$11.99 CD

3 Little Ninjas

LOVIE
Harshmellow
This all-female band harkens to the day of the Go-Go's and Veruca Salt, with aggressive guitars, head-bopping beats and vintage vocals that take listeners all the way back to Josie and the Pussycats. Harshmellow is filled with catchy melodies, killer keyboard riffs, poppy tunes, and solid song writing.
$8.99 CD

Arrowhead

JEFF GRIFFITH
If It Ain't One Thing
Griffith's whiskey-soaked voice takes fans back a step in time to the "glory days" of country music, when soul-baring emotions, traditional melodies and pared-down tracks allowed a singer to shine.
$11.99 CD

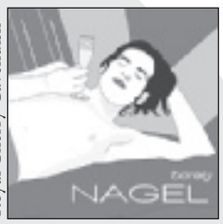


Idol

THE CRASH THAT TOOK ME
Orchestrated Kaleidoscopes
Full of layered textures mixing fuzzed-out guitars and orchestral instrumentation, *Orchestrated Kaleidoscopes* is lyrically and musically based on the relationship between color and music.
available Tuesday, 12/4

Belle City Pop

ZOOKEEPER
Becoming All Things
Chris Simpson and Co. have returned with a full-length record filled with the same loose, jangling rock that originally endeared us to his new project and a handful of earnest gems to fully round out his sound.
$10.99 CD



Royal Cherry Cavendish

NAGEL
Barely Nagel
Like a double team of champagne and bourbon, Nagel slips into your bed and defiles your dreams.
$8.99 CD

El Paisano

OWEN TEMPLE
Two Thousand Miles
The long-awaited fourth album from Owen Temple, produced by Lloyd Maines, features twelve new Temple-penned original songs and the guitar work of David Grissom.
$11.99 CD

Peggy Wright

PEGGY WRIGHT
Without You
Without You is a collection of introspective heart felt original songs worth a listen.
www.myspace.com/peggywright
$12.99 CD

American Beat

JOE ELY
Live Shots
"*Live Shots* remains one of Joe Ely's best, and is as good an argument as you're going to find for releasing a live album."
- All Music Guide
$10.99 CD

Dremnt the End

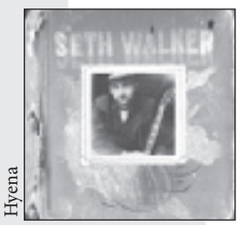
DREMNT THE END
Dremnt the End
Available 11/27 – Dremnt the End's self titled debut... pre-order the CD online now at WaterlooRecords.com and get a signed CD booklet!
$12.99 CD

Small & Nimble

GUY FORSYTH
Unrepentant Schizophrenic Americana
A 2-CD cornucopia of blues/rock from the one and only Guy Forsyth. "Very possibly the ultimate Guy Forsyth album...Four Stars!" - Joe Gross, *Austin-American Statesman*
$21.99 2 CD set

Stag

TEXAS SAPPHIRES
Roadhouse Gems
"They can be treasured by those craving sharp steel guitar, fiddle and guitar flat-picking playing or those salivation for thought-provoking lyrics." - Dirty Linen
$11.99 CD



Hyena

SETH WALKER
Seth Walker
Seth Walker is a different point of blue in American music. His songwriting draws on the entire spectrum of the roots canon, infusing it with a well-spring of Southern soul.
$12.99 CD

Double Xposure

SCOTT WIGGINS
Burn
The Scott Wiggins Band's sophomore release brings the close-nit band to new heights and promises to set the music scene on fire.
$12.99 CD

Strings Attached

WILL TAYLOR & STRINGS ATTACHED
Back to the Garden
Strings Attached's new release *Back to the Garden - A Tribute to Joni Mitchell* features new arrangements of Joni's songs with guest vocalists Molly Venter, Suzanna Choffel, Jean Synodinos, and Libby Kirkpatrick. The CD includes a newly discovered song Joni never recorded or released.
$12.99 CD

SALE ENDS 1-23-2008

WATERLOO 25 years

Compact Discs
Records • Video

10-11 Mon- Sat 11-11 Sun
600-A North Lamar Austin, TX 78703
www.waterloorecords.com
(512)474.2500

WHERE MUSIC STILL MATTERS

WATERLOO

WATERLOO VIDEO
FEATURES

- **DVDs– buy, sell and rent!**
- **Quality previewed DVD & VHS**
- **$2.50 Monday new release & DVD rentals**

Harmonic Distortion

Malekko Heavy Industry's pedal to the mettle

Josh Holley

PHOTOS BY JOHN ANDERSON

BY DARCIE STEVENS

Just north of the Austin city limits, in a nondescript warehouse, Josh Holley and Dwayne Dassing are hunched over in their makeshift laboratory. Electrical wiring snakes across a small table as a lit-up Virgin Mary blesses the mechanical mess. The smell of solder wafts among the posters of Kraftwerk and the Clash. An amp awaits the experimental cycle. Welcome to Malekko Heavy Industry, River City's boutique guitar-pedal manufacturer.

Echoing Brass

This is a story of Austin kismet. Some three years ago, Holley and Dassing, both synthesizer geeks, wanted to start a band. So Holley rang up former local Paul Barker of Ministry fame to play bass. After securing a rehearsal space, the trio laid the foundation of Malekko.

"[Paul] pulled out his secret weapon in Ministry, which was the Maestro Brassmaster," explains Holley. "I didn't know him really well, but I thought, 'Wow. That's the gayest pedal in the world.'"

Picture this: an inverted orange triangle set atop a black box with a knob labeled "sensitivity." Despite its appearance, the Brassmaster's effect is anything but precious; it's gritty and rough with an enormous sound Barker made his own.

"We were trying to think of a band name," Holley continues, "and I was watching a program about Mark Chapman, the guy that killed Lennon. He told his wife that he had to go to New York to write a book called *Malekko the Gecko*.

"I called Paul the following day and said, 'Hey, what do you think about Malekko?' And he, being the biggest nerd on the planet, said, 'Hmmm, Malekko – *mal* in Latin is bad, and echo, of course, is a sound, so it's like bad sound.'

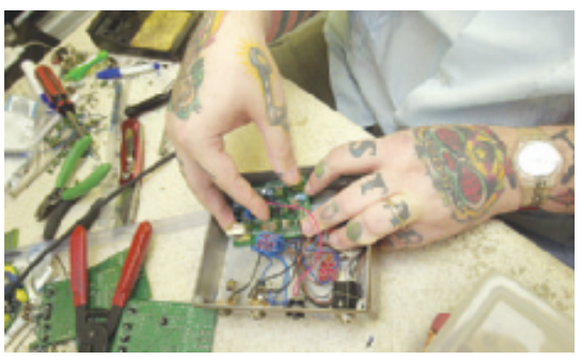
"It was fitting for the band and the effects-pedal company."

The band only lasted a year, but it was the impetus behind Malekko Heavy Industry. Barker asked if Holley's engineer father could clone his rare and expensive Brassmaster. After months of reverse engineering, Holley presented the first Barker Assmaster to its namesake, complete with pink inverted triangle, pretty cursive lettering, and flowers adorning that aforementioned "sensitivity" knob.

Malekko calls it a "harmonic octave analog distortion pedal," but in a world of Big Muffs and Black Cats, the Assmaster is a nuclear bomb heading straight for the low end of the Thunderdome. Obviously reminiscent of Maestro's Bass Brassmaster, the sound is harsher and raw, like sparks flying off shredded sheet metal. It's just nasty, and guitar and bass players alike are jonesing for the gizmo. (See **www.malekkoheavyindustry.com** for proof.)

And because this is an Austin concern, the hard-hat pedal comes with an instruction sheet written in broken English, a random letter affixed to the back of every pedal, and false teeth hidden inside.

"We try to add an element of humor to any of our pedals," Holley says. "Every analog delay I've ever seen is a Japanese company trying to look as American as possible."



Malekko calls it a "harmonic octave analog distortion pedal," but in a world of Big Muffs and Black Cats, the Assmaster is a nuclear bomb heading straight for the low end of the Thunderdome.

Malekko's bright-green, 600-millisecond analog delay, the Echo 600, is labeled in Japanese, but it's no joke. "I always wanted to do an analog delay pedal because they sound great," beams Holley. "The quirkiness of analog delays is great, and, you know, quirky is awesome."

So Holley tracked down some bucket-brigade chips, the out-of-production delay-line mechanisms necessary to make analog delays; made a milelong list of requirements; and went back and forth with his dad. The result is a tight package of long delay. The Echo 600 was such a hit that Malekko is making a stripped-down version, the Echo 300, which should be out for 2008.

In response to those who wanted to replace a beat-up Brassmaster, Malekko began engineering a second version of the Assmaster using germanium components instead of the silicone used in the original. It's the same box, but the germanium gives the pedal a smoother, more vintage sound. Throw a bone to hardcore collectors.

Holley Erectus

With a head of tangled dreads, earlobes stretched to his chin, and neck-to-toe tattoos, Josh Holley's a bit intimidating – until he starts cracking jokes about the Brassmaster, working in Williamson County, and the company he keeps. He's childlike in nature and a welcoming presence.

That instant comfort served him well for 15 years in the tattoo industry. He helped open True Blue Tattoo with his best friend Vanessa Alvarez, who passed away last fall. Her death and the continuing mallification of the industry were enough to close that chapter. Last January, Holley traded in the tattoo gun for the soldering iron and began expanding the Malekko line with his dad, a retired U.S. Navy engineer, doctoring every metal box from his garage in Ohio, and Barker touting the Malekko name from L.A.

"He's the brains behind the operation," Holley laughs of his dad. "I'm the beauty."

After only a year and with one full-time contractor (Dwayne Dassing) and a part-timer (Dassing's brother Gary), Malekko is sending out about 100 handmade, gag-filled pedals a month. By January, Holley hopes to have three more rollouts on the market: the Echo 300; an out-of-house designed sequencer; and the holy grail of synthesizer dynamics, the Holley Erectus.

"Holley Erectus is my pedal," Holley states proudly. "I was a synth player; I like lots of noise. Whenever I program a sound, it's usually pretty dirty or sample-and-holdy. I just combined two things that I really like and put it into a pedal. I love Trans Ams, so there's a big Trans Am bird on it. The pedal is going to glow in the dark, because my favorite colors are glow-in-the-dark, clear, pink, and gray. It's also quite a feat to do, because there are a few things in there that have never been done."

The technical aspect of sample and hold is mind-boggling, so suffice it to say this monster is made for noise. Two pedals baited and switched on to become one and a low-frequency oscillation that transforms sound waves.

"As much as I want to say we're multi-instrument, 90 percent of sales are going to come from guitarists, which I'm not," admits Holley. "I was messing with a guitar whenever I got the first prototype of the Holley Erectus that my father sent me; I couldn't put it down. It's actually more fun to play a guitar or a stringed instrument through it than a keyboard."

Malekko is irreverent without being snarky, from its origins as a killer's hallucination to its modern-day boutique. Both Holley and Barker are married with children, still in the music scene, and just a bit wiser. From this little room in Round Rock, the dream remains: originality, creativity, and fun.

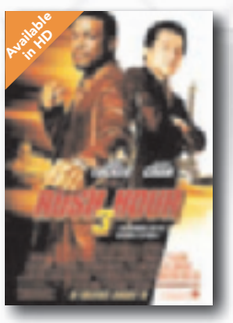
"We're never going to put out just a standard pedal," Holley promises. "That will never happen." ■

NEW FROM TIME WARNER DIGITAL CABLE!

MOVIES ON DEMAND

AVAILABLE SAME DAY AS DVD RELEASE

PREMIERES 12/11 RATED PG-13



RUSH HOUR 3
Premieres 12/26
Rated PG-13

LA VIE EN ROSE
Available Now
Rated PG-13

HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX
Premieres 12/11
Rated PG-13

OCEAN'S THIRTEEN
Available Now
Rated PG-13

HAIRSPRAY
Available Now
Rated PG

MOVIES ON DEMAND CHANNEL 1000
HD MOVIES ON DEMAND CHANNEL 1001

Don't have Digital Cable?
Call (512) 485-6000 today!

TIME WARNER CABLE
THE POWER OF YOU™

CABLE | **HIGH-SPEED ONLINE** | **DIGITAL PHONE**

To receive all services, Digital Cable, remote and lease of HD set-top box are required. Some services are not available to CableCARD™ customers. Not all equipment supports all services. HDTV set required for HD service. HD Premium Tier is an optional service available for an incremental charge. Movies On Demand are available for an incremental charge. All services may not be available in all areas. Subject to change without notice. Some restrictions apply. *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* © 2007 Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc. All rights reserved. *Rush Hour 3* TM & © MMVII New Line Productions Inc. All rights reserved. *La Vie En Rose* © MMVII New Line Cinema Picturehouse Holdings Inc. All rights reserved. *Ocean's Thirteen* © 2007 Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc. All rights reserved. *Hairspray* © MMVII New Line Cinema Picturehouse Holdings Inc. All rights reserved. © 2007 Time Warner Cable Inc. All rights reserved.

★★★★★ Perfect ★★★★ Great ★★★ Good ★★ Mediocre ★ Coaster

MUSIC DVDs Gift Guide

AC/DC

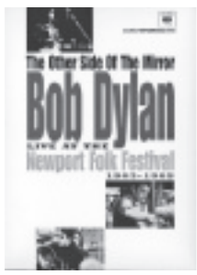
***Plug Me In* (Columbia)**

"I can't see an end to it. It's like infinity rock," grins Bon Scott during an interview for *Australian Music to the World* series, circa 1978, less than two years before the AC/DC frontman's untimely death. The Aussie quintet sprung from its native underground with a blues-based blitzkrieg of nitroglycerin proportions, and while Scott soon sported rock & roll's brass ring in his earlobe for all eternity, AC/DC only became a truly global phenomenon after he accidentally drank himself into the underworld. *Plug Me In* hardwires both trajectories on a double-disc live compendium sure to overdose fan and rockers alike. Watching baby-faced Angus Young duck-stomp his way across the auditorium of St. Albans High School as his brother Malcolm holds down the back-line for "T.N.T." in primal black-and-white footage from 1976 plays out like early footage of Elvis and Buddy Holly: music history. "It's a Long Way to the Top (If You Want to Rock 'n' Roll)" from a *Bandstand* gig that same year finds Scott on bagpipes surrounded by disco-glam dancers. From there, audiences and amplifiers increase exponentially, but the formula never changes: colossal power chords, Yardbirdsian rave-ups, and Chuck Berry played at maximum volume. "Baby Please Don't Go," "Rock 'n' Roll Damnation," "Problem Child," it's all here, "Highway to Hell" helping cap two jaw-dropping hours of peak era Bon Scott. His replacement, Brian Johnson, opens disc two with a rapturous *Back in Black* set in Tokyo, 1981, the group's firework salute at the Tushino Airfield in Moscow a decade later politically motivational. Johnson singing Scott original "Ride On" in Paris, 2001, proves particularly moving. Bonus interviews and clips include Angus and Malcolm joining the Rolling Stones in Germany, 2003, for Muddy Waters' "Rock Me Baby." Long live rock & roll.

★★★★½ – *Austin Powell*

BOB DYLAN

The Other Side of the Mirror: Live at the Newport Folk Festival, 1963-1965
(Columbia/Legacy)



A restless generation looked into the mirror and saw Bob Dylan reflected back, brilliantly articulating its social concerns, moral outrage, and dreams of a better world to come. That was 1963. Two short years later, when his fans looked in that same mirror, the voice of their generation was already on the other side – leather-clad, electrified, personalized. Thankfully, filmmaker Murray Lerner captured the intimacy of these signature Dylan performances at Newport in beautiful black-and-white. It's fascinating to see the bard as a shy, earnest, almost bucolic naif in a work shirt singing an ode to Minnesota miners ("North Country Blues") transformed into an electric guitar-wielding rebel blasting out "Maggie's Farm," presaging the decade's forthcoming societal turmoil and changing the course of popular music. In between are stunning acoustic versions of "Mr. Tambourine Man," "Chimes of Freedom," and the apropos encore, "It's All Over Now, Baby Blue."

★★★½ – *Jay Trachtenberg*

SHAKESPEARE WAS A BIG GEORGE JONES FAN: COWBOY JACK CLEMENT'S HOME MOVIES

(Shout! Factory)

"It ain't got no plot to it at all, just life flowin' by at 6 miles an hour," offers Cowboy Jack Clement of this surrealistic collage of home movies, interviews, and bizarre skits. Although the producer and songwriter's career mirrors some of music's most seminal moments, from his work at Sun Studios to penning and producing hits for Waylon Jennings, George Jones, and Johnny Cash, Clement's legacy may be equally entrusted to the hundreds of home videos documenting his notorious goofball antics and Nashville's biggest stars at their most candid. The hourlong *Shakespeare* offers only a taste, but footage such as Cash lying on A.P. Carter's grave smoking a cigarette, Bono doing his Godfather impression, and impromptu jams with Jennings, John Prine, and Del McCoury are priceless, despite the *Hee Haw*-styled editing. Clement's home-studio is an open house of legendary musicians, and *Shakespeare* is like sitting on the front porch as they jaw off tales into the night.

★★★ – *Doug Freeman*

THE HOLY MODAL ROUNDERS

Bound to Lose
(Badbird)

The Holy Modal Rounders were an anomaly: too weird for the NYC folk scene they inhabited in the early 1960s, too unconventional to be considered a straight-ahead rock or psych band. Perhaps that's why *Bound to Lose* is so bittersweet. Beginning with the genesis of fiddler Pete Stampfel and guitarist Steve Weber's relationship, the film treads heavily along its rocky path. Interviews by filmmakers Paul C. Lovelace and Sam Wainwright Douglas show the effects of drugs – heroin and alcohol for Weber and speed for Stampfel – but they add a human touch to their contentious coupledom. Interviews and footage from the HMR's debut on *Laugh-In*, with a shot of former drummer Sam Shepard ("We were on *Laugh-In*?" he asks), add levity, but the crux is the men's relationship, and the tipping point is a 40th anniversary concert in Portland, Ore., that assures us they'll always be an anomaly.

★★★ – *Audra Schroeder*

continued on p.72

TOM PETTY & THE HEARTBREAKERS

Runnin' Down a Dream
(Warner Bros.)

Tom Petty is the Ralph Nader of rock & roll, a true consumer advocate. And his Heartbreakers – Mike Campbell (guitar), Benmont Tench (keys), Ron Blair (bass), Steve Ferrone (drums), and multi-instrumentalist Scott Thurston – have withstood more than most could stomach. Director Peter Bogdanovich brings in his best work since 1972 Oscar winner *Paper Moon*: the four-hour-plus *Runnin' Down a Dream*, oral history of an American band for the ages, from Petty's childhood to last year's 30th anniversary tour. Comprehensive is an understatement given candid interviews with Heartbreakers past and present; producers Jimmy Iovine, Jeff Lynne, and Rick Rubin; and celebrity superfans. The Traveling Wilburys in session – Petty, Roy Orbison, Lynne, Bob Dylan, and George Harrison in a candy shop – live shots, and numerous videos propel this *Dream*. The four-disc set comprises the 2-DVD documentary, 2006's homecoming concert in Gainesville, Fla., and an unreleased soundtrack (a *Saturday Night Live* performance with Dave Grohl on drums, *Top of the Pops* in 1977, and Hank Williams' "Lost Highway"). "I don't really understand it," admits Petty of his songwriting, "but I do know that the best ones often just appear. You're sitting there with your guitar or the piano, and bang! There it is. It just falls out of the sky. … It's a spiritual thing."

★★★★½ – *Darcie Stevens*

RESPECT YOURSELF: THE STAX RECORDS STORY

(Stax)

STAX/VOLT REVUE: LIVE IN NORWAY 1967

(Stax/Reelin' in the Years)

DREAMS TO REMEMBER: THE LEGACY OF OTIS REDDING

(Stax/Reelin' in the Years)

Following the narrative arc of author Peter Guralnick's *Sweet Soul Music*, directors Robert Gordon and Morgan Neville present the early history of Stax Records as Camelot in Memphis for their 2007 documentary, *Respect Yourself*. With the civil rights movement as a backdrop, black and white session musicians transform a movie theatre into "Soulsville," launching the careers of Otis Redding, Sam & Dave, and Eddie Floyd. Just as the label's fortunes crest in 1967 with Redding's extraordinary Monterey Pop performance, he and most of his backing Bar-Kays are killed in a plane crash. In 1968, Martin Luther King Jr. is assassinated just blocks from the Stax studio, poisoning the interracial dynamic. The rocky dissolution of Stax's distribution agreement with Atlantic didn't help. Isaac Hayes and the Staple Singers then lead the label's revival, culminating with 1972's Wattstax festival in Los Angeles. While *Respect Yourself* touches on behind-the-scenes milestones through interviews, vintage performance footage is what drives this bus. Bonus video of a pre-South by Southwest rehearsal at Austin's Music Lab with Floyd, William Bell, and Booker T. & the MGs seals the local angle. If you can live by music alone, the *Stax/Volt Revue* disc captures a reverie-inducing 1967 Norwegian TV performance by Redding, Floyd, Booker T., Sam & Dave, the Mar-Keys, and Arthur Conley. Interviews with Sam Moore, guitarist Steve Cropper, and trumpeter Wayne Jackson drive home what a big deal it was for a bunch of young guys from Memphis to embark on a European tour. *Dreams to Remember*, meanwhile, recalls Redding's meteoric rise and tragic demise through contemporary interviews and performance footage. Highlights include an immolation of "Satisfaction" taped in London with an undoubtedly nervous Mick Jagger in the audience and a red-hot version of "Respect" taped at a Cleveland TV station less than 24 hours before Redding's death.

(*Respect Yourself*, *Stax/Volt Revue*) ★★★★ (*Dreams to Remember*) ★★★½ – *Greg Beets*

Experience home entertainment that revolves around what's important—

YOU

Today, **Time Warner Cable** is leading thousands of Austin households into the digital age—utilizing next-generation technology designed with **YOU** in mind.

DIGITAL CABLE

Over 300 Channels*

High-Definition TV Service

Exclusive Programming

Digital Video Recorder

Enhanced Television

On Demand Technology

HIGH-SPEED ONLINE

Speeds up to 7 Mbps

150x faster than dial-up

4x faster than the standard DSL package

FREE Security Software[1]

DIGITAL PHONE

Unlimited Calling

7 Free Calling Features

Keep Your Same Phone Number

Caller ID on TV

Enhanced 9-1-1

all the best

Get all three services and enjoy:

> One great price.

> One company, one call, one bill for all your home entertainment needs.

> Quality, local customer service.

Bundle your services and save money!

485-6000

(1-800-418-8848)

timewarnercentral.com

TIME WARNER CABLE
THE POWER OF YOU™

*Offer good for new and/or current customers who sign up for the All-In-One bundled package. Savings may vary depending on service location. Not all services available in all areas. Residential customers only. Monthly prices do not include applicable taxes, franchise fees, FCC user fees and in the case of Digital Phone, Directory Assistance, operator-assisted calls and International calls. Movies On Demand, HDTV, Premiums, Premiums On Demand and BEVO On Demand (BEVOD) are available at an additional cost. Other restrictions apply. LOONEY TUNES characters, names and all related indicia are trademarks of and © Warner Bros. Digital Phone does not include back-up power and, should there be a loss of electrical power, Digital Phone, including the ability to access 9-1-1 services, will not be available. Additional charges apply for calls to International locations, operator services, directory assistance, and taxes and fees. Residential use only. Caller ID on TV not available on 3250HD and Pace set-top boxes. EBay-on-TV service available to registered eBay users at no additional cost who have both Digital Cable and DVR service. 1. Security software not available for Macintosh computers.

RM #2685/5/07_V2

THE BEATLES

***Help!* (Capitol)**

Though not as fresh and forward-looking as *A Hard Day's Night*, the Beatles' newly restored sophomore cinematic romp is nevertheless visually breathtaking. Watching the Liverpudlian quartet circa 1965 come alive again on rich color film stock reaffirms the group's once-in-a-lifetime magnetism. After capturing the essence of Beatlemania in *AHDN*, returning director Richard Lester briefly considered making a film depicting the Beatles' private life. As Lester relates in a present-day interview on the bonus disc, however, copious on-set pot intake was one of many indications that that door should stay closed. Instead, Lester harnessed his bigger budget by dropping the Beatles into the middle of an absurd James Bond parody complete with far-flung location shooting in the Austrian Alps and the Bahamas. One gets the sense that the band is just out for a goof, but Lester has the good sense to roll with it. The Beatles' collective energy drives the film, but the comedic heavy lifting is done by a solid supporting cast that includes Leo McKern as a crazed temple leader who wants to sacrifice Ringo Starr and Roy Kinnear (best known as Veruca Salt's dad in *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory*) as the assistant to a mad British scientist fighting to stave off the empire's slow death. This slight seditious bent allows *Help!* to serve both bumbling nationalists and religious fanatics their just deserts with eternally youthful charm. The visual doesn't trump the music, but seeing is definitely believing.

★★★½ – *Greg Beets*

RAMONES

***It's Alive: 1974-1996* (Rhino)**

From black-and-white video of a young band arguing onstage at CBGB in 1974 to an automatic stadium show more than 20 years later in Buenos Aires, *It's Alive* is the holy grail of filmed Ramones' performances. Over two discs, Dee Dee barks, "1-2-3-4!" almost as many times as Al Pacino says the F-word in *Scarface*. The Queens quartet's earliest shows have the same look and feel of 1,000 subsequent punk acts, only in this case, the wheel is actually being invented. Austinites will appreciate the inclusion of two Armadillo World Headquarters shows from 1977, but seeing the band take over TV land with appearances on Don Kirshner's *Rock Concert* and Germany's *Musikladen* is even more exciting. Their seminal 1977 New Year's Eve show in London is another highlight. Although the Ramones' set list ossified in later years, *It's Alive* squeezes in as many live rarities as possible between repeats of "Blitzkrieg Bop" and "Pinhead."

★★★★ – *Greg Beets*

NIRVANA

***Unplugged in New York* (Universal)**

"'Hurry up'? Is that what you said?" Kurt Cobain quizzes a holler. Fourteen years after its original airdate (Dec. 14, 1993, four months before the grunge god pulled the trigger), MTV's most popular acoustic trip hits DVD. Performing only one of Nirvana's hits ("Come as You Are"), *Unplugged in New York* is more a historic snapshot than an immaculate collection of rarities and covers. Adding two songs to the taping ("Something in the Way," "Oh, Me"), plus rehearsals and a rare televised glimpse of the Meat Puppets, the digitized version is full-screen (only) and uncut, which sometimes makes for painfully long pauses between songs but allows for stage banter that many never saw in Nirvana's all-too-short existence. Why would a band renown for its live antics take it down to the bare bones? "To show off our softer side," Krist Novoselic replies in the extras' short interviews. "Like scented toilet paper."

★★★ – *Darcie Stevens*

PEARL JAM

***Immagine in Cornice* (Monkey Wrench/Rhino)**

Put "A Film by" above the title, and said director better deliver. Danny Clinch does, Pearl Jam's week of shows in Italy, 2006, taking in a modest amount of native scenery and backstage revelations. Eddie Vedder touring the enormous church in minuscule Pistoia adds flavor to moments with guitarist Mike McCready's tattoos, bassist Jeff Ament's skateboard escapes, and the singer's eight-track machine ("It keeps me out of trouble"). Less appetizing is Clinch's ADD editing. Too many cameras result in a common postmodern mistake: cutting as aggressive as the music being played. A slamming "World Wide Suicide" and rain soaked "Corduroy" – as filmed – rarely pause long enough to consider Matt Cameron's muscled beat or Vedder's blue-eyed charisma. *Immagine in Cornice* improves as it progresses, "Even Flow" and the vocalist's onstage wipeout during "Alive" worthy moments of encapsulation. Bonus footage includes Vedder leading My Morning Jacket through the Who's operatic "A Quick One While He's Away."

★★½ – *Raoul Hernandez*

PAUL MCCARTNEY

***The McCartney Years* (Rhino)**

Nearing his 40th year as a solo artist, Sir Paul McCartney weighs in with an extraordinary 3-DVD set that covers all the bases. The first two discs compile his music videos, spanning 1970's "Heart of the Country" from his self-titled debut to 2005's "Fine Line." Playable in a sequence designated by the artist or in chronological order, both discs feature commentary tracks from McCartney that explain such oddities as "Coming Up," where several Pauls make up the backup band. The prize is the third disc, a collection of live performances that includes a portion of the Rockshow tour from 1976, an edited version of 1991's *Unplugged*, and the near-legendary Glastonbury set from 2004. McCartney's 2005 Super Bowl appearance confirms that he's still an electrifying presence.

★★★★ – *Jim Caligiuri*

RAVI SHANKAR

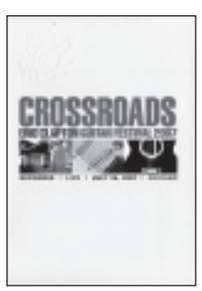
***The Concert for World Peace: Live at Royal Albert Hall* (A&E)**

Filmed November 1993 at London's Royal Albert Hall and originally released in 1995 on audio format, Ravi Shankar's *Concert for World Peace* captures the commanding presence of the then-73-year-old sitar virtuoso as he guides the audience through four ragas backed by tabla player Zakir Hussain and two tamboura players providing droning atmospherics. Calm, meditative, and inherently spiritual, Shankar's performance parallels witnessing the Dalai Lama at the Frank Erwin Center, both mediums to the message. Call-and-response interplay between Shankar and his sarodist disciple Partho Sarathy toward the end of the 20-minute opener, "Raga Jait: Alap-Jor-Jhala," proves the highlight, the two improvising within the strict confines of traditional Indian music. The accompanying documentary is necessary viewing, providing informative interviews with Shankar and daughter Annapurna Devi Shankar, while composer Philip Glass offers insight from a Western perspective.

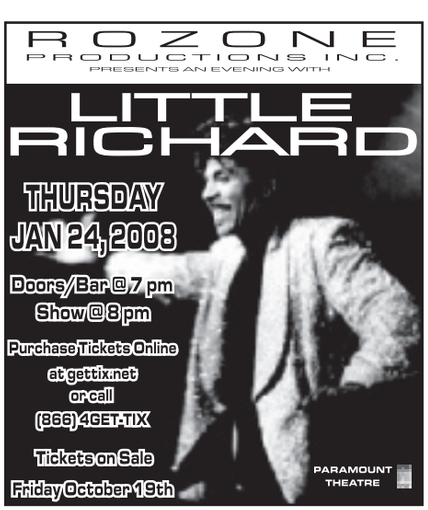
★★★ – *Austin Powell*

ERIC CLAPTON

***Crossroads Guitar Festival 2007* (Rhino)**



Stars already aligned over 4½ highlight-studded hours on two discs, Blind Faith's melancholic "Can't Find My Way Home" nearly eclipses everything that's come before it on a July Saturday in Chicago. Not only is the reunion of first supergroupers Steve Winwood and Eric Clapton chemistry incarnate – ditto on "Presence of the Lord" and chuggernaut "Had to Cry Today" – in Slowhand's backing guitarists Doyle Bramhall II and Derek Truck's six-stringing along, classic meets contemporary across the generational divide. (Steve Jordan's feral drums belong to Stax, Count Basie, and Keith Richards all in one.) Truck's cover of Derek & the Dominos' "Anyday" and his backing Johnny Winter on Dylan's "Highway 61 Revisited" double the torch passing. Emcee Bill Murray, Sonny



Landreth, Hubert Sumlin, Robert Cray's elegant "Poor Johnny," Jeff Beck, Jimmie Vaughan, Willie Nelson's acoustic schooling on "Blue Eyes Crying in the Rain," and Robbie Robertson match DVD editor William Bullen's visual acuity.

★★★ – *Raoul Hernandez*

FLATT & SCRUGGS
Best of the Flatt & Scruggs TV Show Vol. 3 **(Shanachie)**

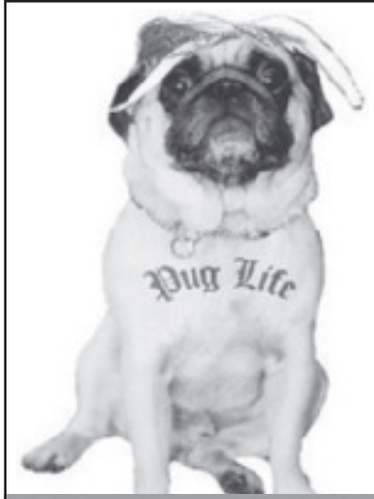
FLATT & SCRUGGS
Best of the Flatt & Scruggs TV Show Vol. 4 **(Shanachie)**

The Flatt & Scruggs TV shows were immensely popular throughout the South from the mid-1950s until 1969, when the guitar/banjo duo broke up. Taken from recently discovered episodes, their existence is as remarkable as some of the performances they preserve. The follow-up to the first two volumes released earlier this year offers more treats for fans of bluegrass. Both editions contain two complete half-hour shows and concentrate on late 1961 and early 1962, a period when Lester Flatt, Earl Scruggs, and the Foggy Mountain Boys were at their peak as an ensemble. The inclusion of commercials for sponsors Martha White Flour and Pet Milk adds a bit of kitschy fun. Appearances by a 7-year-old mandolin-slinging Ricky Skaggs on *Vol. 3* and an 8-year-old Randy Lynn Scruggs, Earl's son, on *Vol. 4* provide a brief glimpse into the future of bluegrass.

(Both) ★★★★ *- Jim Caligiuri*

continued on p.74

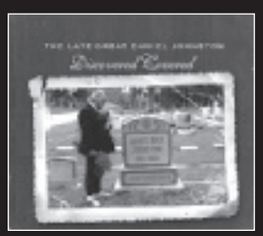
the gay place BLOG
austinchronicle.com/gayplaceblog



• The Largest CD store in Austin!
• We'll buy all your CDs, DVDs, and LPs
• Open 'til midnight
• Voted "Best used CD store" for six straight years

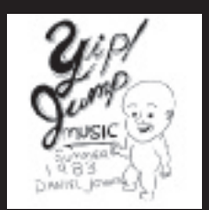
CASH FOR CD's • DVD's & LP's
OPEN 'TIL MIDNIGHT
cheapo discs
10th & LAMAR • 512.477.4499
www.cheapotexas.com

Daniel Johnston



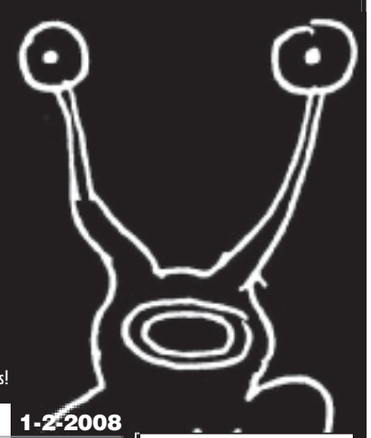
The Late Great Daniel Johnston: Discovered Covered
$13.99 2 CD set
This brilliant two-disc set features one disc of classic Johnston covers by Beck, Bright Eyes, TV on the Radio, and many more as well as a second CD containing Johnston's original versions.

Hi, How Are You
$14.99 LP



Yip Jump Music
$14.99 LP

The legendary *Hi, How Are You* and *Yip Jump Music* recordings have been digitally re-mastered and are available on vinyl for the first time in 15 years!



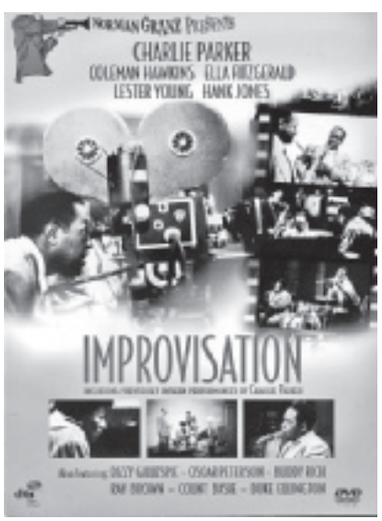
1-2-2008
WATERLOO 25 years
Compact Discs
Records • Video
10-11 Mon-Sat 11-11 Sun
600-A North Lamar Austin, TX 78703
www.waterloorecords.com
(512)474.2500
BUY, SELL & TRADE
DVDs, CDs & LPs
WHERE MUSIC STILL MATTERS

WILLIE NELSON, MERLE HAGGARD, RAY PRICE

***Last of the Breed: Live in Concert* (A&E)**

Documenting the final performance of the *Last of the Breed* Tour at the Rosemont Theatre in Rosemont, Ill., March 2007, this 35-song show from these Country Music Hall of Famers is a throwback in more ways than one. Though the trio is in as fine a form as can be expected, and the 5.1 digital surround sound is superb, the drab setting and poor camerawork give the occasion the feel of a 1980s PBS telethon. Price appears more haggard than Hag, but his voice is still impressively smooth on "Crazy Arms." With Asleep at the Wheel backing, Haggard proves nimble on guitar and fiddle, with "Are the Good Times Still Over (I Wish a Buck Was Still Silver)" rousing the Midwest crowd. Willie, for his part, remains timelessly indomitable. The threesome offers spectacular takes of "I Gotta Have My Baby Back" and "Crazy," but Ray Benson's interview with the patriarchs in the extras may provide the most exciting moment.

★★½ – *Doug Freeman*



NORMAN GRANZ PRESENTS: IMPROVISATION

(Laser Swing Productions/Eagle Eye Media)

Jazz impresario Norman Granz and *Life* magazine photographer Gjon Mili collaborated on an extraordinarily artful, Oscar-nominated short film in 1944 called "Jammin' the Blues." Six years later, the pair was at it again, bringing together for the first time in performance saxophone titans Coleman Hawkins and Charlie Parker. This marvelous studio date also includes wonderful segments with saxophone president Lester Young, trumpeter "Sweets" Edison, and vocal queen Ella Fitzgerald. It took almost 50 years for the project to be released, and now it's been reissued with added Granz-produced sections, featuring a Duke Ellington Trio performance from 1966, Montreux Jazz Festival all-star jams with Count Basie, Oscar Peterson's small groups from 1977, and a 1979 studio set from Joe Pass and Ms. Fitzgerald. All of it is superb. A second disc features "Jammin' the Blues" plus film rushes and stills from the 1950 session. This is nirvana for jazz lovers.

★★★★ – *Jay Trachtenberg*

HATED: GG ALLIN & THE MURDER JUNKIES SPECIAL EDITION

(MVD Visual)

For his senior film, NYU student Todd Phillips filmed GG Allin being released from jail, onstage, and back to jail over the course of the early 1990s. Phillips went on to make stoner-friendly movies like *Old School* and *Road Trip*, but *Hated* was a lowbrow-beating endeavor, a curious portrait of a punk rocker who, if it hadn't been for music, probably would have been visited by death sooner. Allin's confrontational, righteous nature is captured in some filthy onstage acts and an NYU "spoken word" performance that empties the room. (In some choice commentary, Phillips says he got the gig by saying Allin was "like a Henry Rollins.") Extra interviews with Dino Sex, the Murder Junkies' creepy drummer, and brother Merle Allin add, uh, color, but watch the interview with GG's bespectacled mother for the story about naming her newborn son "Jesus Christ" after it came to his father in a vision.

★★★ – *Audra Schroeder*

GHOSTLAND OBSERVATORY

***Live From Austin TX* (New West)**

This wasn't Ghostland Observatory's first time on the *Austin City Limits* stage. That honor occurred in March on a live broadcast for KEXP, but this was the local duo's first full concert for an international television audience, and there are a few moments during the opening bleeps of "Piano Man" that capture the importance of this 2007 performance. Braided frontman Aaron Behrens, with his back toward the audience, clasps his hands in prayer toward his partner in rhythm, Thomas Turner. Then the beat drops, and everything's business as usual. Recorded in July, edited down to 14 songs, and rushed to video before the segment's initial airdate, GLO's set is unsurprisingly tight, the jerky push and pull of drum/guitar movers "Ghetto Magnet" and "All You Rock & Rollers" translating better than the electro-dance protocol of "Move With Your Lover" and "Robotique Majestique." Still, this DVD commemorates what Ghostland Observatory does best: turn spaces into parties.

★★½ – *Austin Powell*

THE FLAMING LIPS

***U.F.O.s at the Zoo: The Legendary Concert in Oklahoma City* (Warner Bros.)**

The Flaming Lips' first live DVD is an appropriately extravagant affair, a two-hour celebration of the band's notoriously elaborate shows. Recorded at the Oklahoma City Zoo Amphitheatre, the 2006 hometown performance magnifies every live Lips trick, from the fantrotting hamster ball and confetti guns to the fake blood and dancing Santas and aliens – coupled with the band's descending from a Funkadelic-esque Mothership. Anchored by staples like "Race for the Prize," "She Don't Use Jelly," and "Do You Realize??," the set presents the Lips at their most exuberant, especially on versions of "The Yeah Yeah Yeah Song," blistering jam of "Yoshimi Battles the Pink Robots Part 2," and exquisite encore of rarely performed "Love Yer Brain." Though the between-song features with drug-addled fans become tedious, the behind-the-scenes setup of the show is impressive, and downloadable MP3s of the performance and customizable ring tones add solid extras.

★★★ – *Doug Freeman*

U2

***Popmart: Live From Mexico City* (Universal/Island)**

"A monument to trash and supermarket culture," explains U2 manager Paul McGuinness during one of four superfluous documentaries on a second disc of extras. "That's why we called the tour 'Popmart.'" That doesn't explain why the Irish quartet is dressed like an electronica version of the Village People – cowboy, prizefighter, death-squad guerilla, unamused drummer – on its 1997 concert "spectacular." A segment on the tour's lemon, a disco ball from which the band emerges for the encore, provides snorts of embarrassment from the group, but no further rationalizations. Equally dated, *Pop*'s disco beats can't smoke and mirror their compositional backbone of the two-hour set, "Gone," "Last Night on Earth," acoustic Bono/Edge duet "Staring at the Sun," "Please," and encore "Discothèque" highlighting the distracted circus onstage. Encore excerpts from shows in Rotterdam and Edmonton play more heartfelt, but by that point, the extravaganza has gotten old. Not so of Edge's solo rendition of "Sunday Bloody Sunday," less *Pop* than snap and crackle.

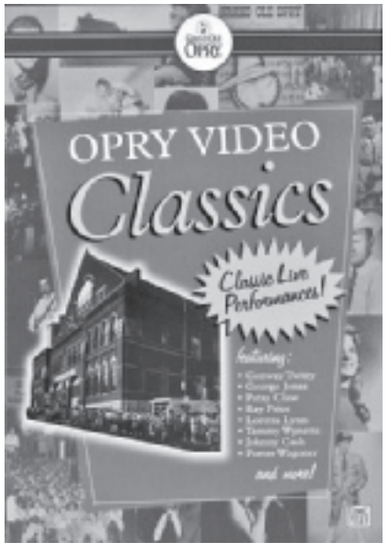
★★ – *Raoul Hernandez*

OASIS

***Lord Don't Slow Me Down* (Hip-O)**

The sun set long ago on the bombastic panache of Oasis. Manchester's Gallagher lads were slated to live forever on cigarettes, alcohol, fisticuffs, and "Wonderwall." Anthemic and quarrelsome, Oasis haughtily inhabited a prewar decade when where, what, and why were less intriguing than "Why not?" Depressingly, that stadium-filling reverie is utterly absent from this transparent bid for historical relevance, which comes off as little more than a snazzed-up, hi-def electronic press kit. Coupling a grating exercise in tour-film tedium with a smartly shot Manchester Stadium supergig (recorded days before London's terror attacks of July 2005), it succeeds only in making Libertines-du-jour Pete Doherty and Amy Winehouse look revelatory. Little by little, the insistence in being idle has resulted in mucky fingers and disheartening acquiescence to an outdated master plan. Noel's soaring Beatles pastiche and Liam's stubborn rock star stance remain fitfully epic, but Oasis, the Great Brit Hope, reveals itself on- and offstage to be as culturally relevant as Benny Hill's backside. Definitive? Maybe not.

★½ – *Marc Savlov*



OPRY VIDEO CLASSICS

(Time Life)

This superb 8-DVD collection gathers 120 video performances from the Grand Ole Opry broadcasts of the 1950s through 1970s, most of which were captured on the stage of the Mother Church – the Ryman Auditorium – and have never before been commercially available. All the legends are accounted for, including Patsy Cline, George Jones, Loretta Lynn, Ray Price, Tammy Wynette, Tom T. Hall, Waylon Jennings, and too many more to mention, sometimes at their peak, others when they were just getting started. Each disc is organized by theme, such as Queens of Country, Duets, and Honky-Tonk Heroes, which seems a little arbitrary at times, but that's only a minor quibble when one considers the depth of the series as a whole. Every installment features an introduction by Marty Stuart, as well as personal reflections from Grand Ole Opry veterans like Jim Ed Brown and Porter Wagoner served up as extras. Everyone will have their own favorites, but Pioneers, with Roy Acuff, the Carter Family, and the Louvin Brothers, and Legends, featuring Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson, Faron Young, Ernest Tubb, and Conway Twitty, surely stand out. While the sound quality is excellent, some of the black-and-white video shows its age, though the color clips allow Nudie suits to be fully appreciated. This set is like a video hall of fame, likely to thrill any lover of country music's heyday.

★★★★★ – *Jim Caligiuri*

News of the Weird

BY CHUCK SHEPHERD

ROY TOMPKINS

Small-Town Mayors: 1) Mayor Ken Williams resigned in Centerton, Ark. (population 2,146), in November and revealed that he is actually Don LaRose, an Indiana preacher who abruptly abandoned his family in 1980 because, he said, satanists had abducted and threatened him, and brainwashed him to rub out details of a murder he supposedly knew about. He said his memory returned only recently, thanks to truth serum. 2) Mayor Lino Donato of Poteet, Texas (population 3,500), said in November that he would remain in office despite his inability to set foot in city hall. That building is less than 1,000 feet from a youth recreation center and therefore off-limits to Donato, who was adjudicated a sex offender in October.

OOPS!

• The Texas Board of Education announced in November that it had made its selections of approved math textbooks for the next school year, even though the group of chosen books contained a total of 109,263 errors. Books of the industry giant Houghton Mifflin accounted for about 86,000. All publishers have guaranteed to correct the errors by the time the books are shipped.

• In October, rescue crews in Pittsburgh freed a woman who had become stuck underneath an SUV in front of another woman's house. She told police that she suspected her husband was having an affair with the woman and had crawled around to get a better vantage point for spying. She said she inadvertently fell asleep and, when she awoke, could not crawl out.

• Spectacular Errors: 1) In November, a 77-year-old man in Jacksonville, Fla., intending to help his daughter by riding his bicycle to Long Branch Elementary School to pick up her 4-year-old son (his grandson), arrived back home with a kid on the bike but did not realize that he had picked up the wrong boy. Said the picked-up kid's frantic mother, "[The two boys] don't even look alike." 2) The Rhode Island Department of Health fined Rhode Island Hospital $50,000 in November because three doctors so far this year have performed neurosurgery on the wrong side of the patients' brains. (Two patients survived.)

FINE POINTS OF THE LAW

• In November the Food and Drug Administration told Smiling Hill Farm of Westbrook, Maine, that it would have to recall all of its egg nog because it did not list "egg" as an ingredient on the label. Federal law requires the listing to protect people with egg allergies from inadvertently consuming foods that they might not have realized contain egg (even products called "egg nog").

• Jesse Rodriguez, 33, was scheduled to testify in December in Redwood City, Calif., against the man who ordered him to shoot another to death in 1989, even though triggerman Rodriguez has been, and is, exempt from any prison time. Rodriguez was 14 when he killed the man, and state law at the time prohibited authorities from holding him beyond his 25th birthday. Since Rodriguez went on the lam after the crime and did not surface until he was 31, the state would have to let him go even if he were tried and convicted.

THE CONTINUING CRISIS

• The existence of the 50-year-old, ultra-secure computer protocol required for a U.S. president to launch nuclear weapons is well-known, through newspapers, books, and Hollywood films, but according to papers released by Britain's National Archive in November, a similarly complex protocol has been in place in that country only since 1998. Before that, a person could arm a nuclear bomb simply by removing two ordinary screws and (according to BBC News) using "an Allen key to select high yield or low yield, air burst or groundburst, and other parameters."

• Yikes! 1) The *China Daily* newspaper reported in November that local markets and beauty salons in Guangdong province were selling low-priced hair bands made from used condoms. 2) "Fires during surgeries a bigger risk than thought," headlined a November *Boston Globe* article, citing data from hospitals in Pennsylvania (28 operating-room fires a year for the last three years) and Massachusetts.

• People Who Have a Way With Words: 1) Washington state Rep. Jim Dunn, responding in October to a reprimand by colleagues about unwanted sexual remarks made to a female staff member, said he couldn't recall exactly what he told her, but that he was "sure it was very inappropriate, because I do that kind of thing." 2) Russia's checkerboard serial killer (who said he aimed to commit 64 murders even though only charged with 49), explained in court in October how he got started, at age 18, by killing a classmate: "A first killing is like your first love. You never forget it."

LEAST COMPETENT CRIMINALS

Not Ready for Prime Time: 1) A man in a werewolf mask tried to rob a Subway sandwich shop in Pittsburgh in October, but came away empty as the two employees on duty refused to give up money even though he implied that he had a gun (covered with a paper bag). The employees said the man argued a bit and then in frustration removed his mask and fled, saying, "I can't believe you won't listen to a man with a mask and a gun." 2) Gregory Holley was arrested in Largo, Fla., in November and charged with robbing three stores and a bank. He was picked up the day after the bank robbery, carrying cash from the bank and wearing the same clothes that the robber wore, with stains from the bank's chemical dye pack.

CRÈME DE LA WEIRD

Mesa, Ariz., police arrested Sebastian Mancilla, 41, in November after a security camera at Mervyn's department store caught him being not too subtle in looking up the skirt of a female shopper. According to an *Arizona Republic* reporter, citing a police source: "At one time Mancilla approached the woman from behind and laid down on the floor to look up her skirt. He then got back to his feet and continued to act as if he was shopping." Mancilla allegedly tried again with the same woman, dropping to his knees, but to no avail, as the woman walked away.

UPDATES

1) A court in Preston, England, convicted Akinwale Arobieke, 46, of violating an earlier court order (reported in "News of the Weird" in 2006) by doing the same prohibited behavior: He accosted a man in public at a mall and fondled his bicep. 2) In October, the singer Donovan, 61, announced plans to open the Invincible Donovan University in his native Scotland to advance Transcendental Meditation teachings, which assert (as mentioned in "News of the Weird" in 1999 and 2005) that a critical mass of practitioners, concentrating in unison, can cause society to reduce its crime, violence, and stress (and, he said, the critical mass for improving a small country like Scotland would be only 250 meditators).

Visit Chuck Shepherd daily at **newsoftheweird.blogspot.com** *(or* **www.newsoftheweird.com***). Send your Weird News to: Chuck Shepherd, PO Box 18737, Tampa, FL 33679 or* **weirdnewstips@yahoo.com**.

©2004 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Hey Santa!
Stuff This!

Pink Floyd

Oh By The Way
Box Set

Hoodies For
Your Hood!

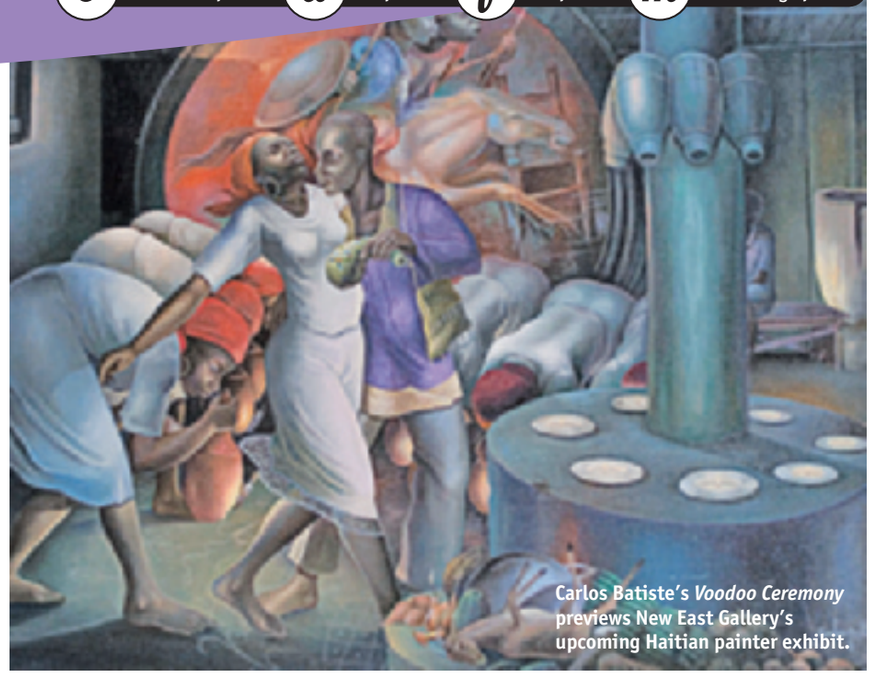
WE BUY VINYL!

ENCORE
things are different here...
cd * dvd * records * t-shirts
1745 W.Anderson Ln 451-8111
www.revolutionnumber9.com
encore@austintx.com

this week

COMMUNITY LISTINGS

(PLUS HIGHLIGHTS FROM ARTS, FILM, AND MUSIC) BY NORA ANKRUM



Carlos Batiste's *Voodoo Ceremony* previews New East Gallery's upcoming Haitian painter exhibit.

Holiday Bazaars

ARMADILLO CHRISTMAS BAZAAR moves to the Austin Convention Center this year, where there will be a full bar and 24 bands lined up to fill your 10 days of shopping with the sweet sound of local music. The Armadillo's fine arts and crafts are made by Central Texas artists, and you can mail your gifts straight from the bazaar (11am-7pm) – your package will even have a special Armadillo Christmas Bazaar postmark. *Through Dec. 24, 11am-11pm. Austin Convention Center, 500 E. Cesar Chavez, 476-5461. $6 ($3, weekdays before 7pm).* **www.armadillobazaar.com**.

BLUE GENIE ART BAZAAR runs right up through Christmas Eve, featuring 80 different artists and artisans. You can visit each artist's website from **www.bluegenieart.com** to check out the goodies you can expect to find. *Through Dec. 24. Sun.-Thu., 10am-10pm; Fri.-Sat., 10am-12mid (Sun., Dec. 24, 10am-6pm). Monarch Event Center, 6406 N. I-35 #3100, 371-3711. Free.*

KEEP AUSTIN BIZARRE Billed as "not your typical quilt and wind chime show," this 10-day holiday market brings you shopping from artists and crafters all over the Southwest along with live music, avant garde dance, magic shows, and a sprinkling of keep-it-weird personalities like Congress Avenue's 7-foot-tall banjo player. *Through Dec. 23. Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd., 404-4500. $5.* **www.keepaustinbizarre.com**.

GÜERO'S HOLIDAY MARKET A SoCo artists market for the chicest people on your holiday gift list. *Fri.-Sun., Dec. 21-23, noon-6pm. Güero's Taco Bar, 1412 S. Congress, 447-7688.*

HOLIDAY FAIR AT THE ARTIST'S MARKET This weekly market, known for its live music and local, handmade items (no imports or resales), has extended its hours this weekend so that you have no excuse for missing out on their one-of-a-kind paintings, photography, pottery, jewelry, stained glass, clothing, candles, and more. *Sat.-Sun., Dec. 22-23, 10am-8pm. Mother Egan's Irish Pub, 715 W. Sixth, 535-5761. Free.* **www.downtownartistmarket.com**.

JERRY'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS EVENT & MARKET Watch artists at work and enjoy live music, art demonstrations, kids activities, and more while you shop for original artwork, art supplies, and other gifts for the creatives on your list. *Sat., Dec. 22, noon-5pm. Jerry's Artarama, 420-9508.* **www.jerrysaustin.com**.

SUNSET VALLEY FARMERS MARKET features locally grown produce, organic products, and freshly prepared foods every week, but also has lots of extra vendors out today for your last-minute Christmas shopping pleasure. Stop by for desserts, handcrafted clothing, artwork, jewelry, toys, and more. *Saturdays, 9:30am-1pm. Toney Burger Center, 3200 Jones, 280-1976. Free.* **www.sunsetvalleyfarmersmarket.org**.

ARABIC CHRISTMAS BAZAAR features belly-dancing performances and classes, henna tattoos, free Arabic coffees and desserts, and Middle Eastern music. Oh yeah, and shopping! Get your handmade gifts imported straight from Syria, Egypt, and Morocco. *Sunday, Dec. 23, 11am-6pm. The Arabic Bazaar & Zein's Dance Studio, 51st & Duval, 533-9227. Free.* **www.wmdproductions.com**.

A Solstice Celebration to Benefit DiverseArts

[SEE FRIDAY, A CULTURAL OCCASION]

Thursday 20

CHARTER REVISION COMMITTEE MEETING explores the feasibility of two different districting options for Austin: single-member districts, or a combination of single-member and at-large council seats. Your feedback is welcome. *5:30pm. LCRA Hancock Building, 3700 Lake Austin Blvd., 974-7593. Free.* **leslie.schneiweiss@ci.austin.tx.us, www.ci.austin.tx.us/charter**.

RECOVERY INC. MEETINGS For anyone suffering from anxiety, depression, anger, phobias, or other emotional problems. *Mondays, 7:30-9pm: Unity Church of the Hills, 9905 Anderson Mill Rd. Thursdays, 7:30-9pm: St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church, Parish Office Building, room 210, 4800 Convict Hill. (Meetings canceled Mon., Dec. 24 & 31.) 233-0650. Free.* **www.recovery-inc.org**.

SAINT GERMAIN CHRISTMAS PARTY Join the folks at the Healing Light Center for a potluck and gift exchange. *7:30pm. Healing Light Center, 7018 William Wallace Way, 278-0559. Free (bring a dish to share and a $10 present for the exchange).* **www.sashawhite.com**.

SPANGLISH 101 Both English and Spanish speakers are welcome at this once-a-week class that teaches both languages. *Thursdays, 5pm. 1303 S. Congress. Free.* **zen2ltd@yahoo.com**.

THIRD THURSDAY ON GUADALUPE Live music and the crafts of local artisans. *Guadalupe between 28th & 38th. Free.* **www.austinthirdthursday.com**.

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
The Wizard of Oz* With *Dark Side of the Moon
@ Alamo Ritz, 12mid

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
KOOP's 13th Anniversary *Ruta Maya*
Attack Formation, **Black Panda** *Lamberts*

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

The Austin Chronicle is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date. **The deadline for the Jan. 4 issue is Monday, Dec. 24**. Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork. Include SASE for return of materials.

Send submissions to the attention of the appropriate writer (see roster below). Mail to the *Chronicle*, PO Box 49066, Austin, 78765, fax 458-6910, or e-mail:

Kate X Messer or Kate Getty (The Gay Place): **gayplace@austinchronicle.com**.

Mark Fagan (Sports): **gameplans@austinchronicle.com**.

Nora Ankrum (everything else): **calendar@austinchronicle.com**.

Questions? Contact Wayne Alan Brenner, listings editor, 454-5766 or **brenner@austinchronicle.com**.

the young ones

SEE P.53 FOR OUR *New Year's Eve Guide*

VICTOR PETER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP This $500 scholarship from the Czech Heritage Society of Texas is available to graduating high school seniors. To apply, address one of the following two topics in a 300-word essay: 1) **A Family Member Who Represents Czech Heritage** or 2) **A Family Member Who Contributed to the Czech Heritage in the United States**. (Applicants need not be of Czech origin to apply.) Call for more details. *Deadline: Feb. 28. 281/342-4898.*

THE SHOEMAKER AND THE ELVES Freddy "Pig Man" Carnes presents a new musical based on the Grimm Brothers' classic. Much song and merriment cobbled, you might say, together. *Through Dec. 22. Wed.-Fri., 10am; Sat., 1 & 3pm. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover, 891-8387. $10 ($7, ages 11 and younger; group discounts available).*

KIDS HOLIDAY STORYTIMES *10am & noon. Fri., Dec. 21 & 28. Wells Branch Community Library, 15001 Wells Port Dr., 989-3188. Free.* **www.wblibrary.org/CALENDAR.html**.

KIDS HOLIDAY MOVIE TIME Call to see what's playing today. *Fri., Dec. 21; Tue.-Fri., Dec. 26-28. 1pm. Wells Branch Community Library, 15001 Wells Port Dr., 989-3188. Free.* **www.wblibrary.org/CALENDAR.html**.

SPRING TEEN FILMMAKING WORKSHOP Austin filmmaker Kat Candler teaches this course on screenwriting, directing, scheduling, marketing, festivals, and more. *Jan. 21-April 21. Mondays, 6:30-8:30pm. Austin School of Film, 906 E. Fifth #106, 236-8877. $550.* **www.storieproductions.com**.

THE TOYS TAKE OVER CHRISTMAS Find out what happens when a toy maker's creations decide they don't want to be stuck on the shelf anymore. *Through Dec. 22. Sat., 10am; Sun., 2pm. Scottish Rite, 207 W. 18th, 472-5436. $10 ($8, ages 1-12; $3, infant).* **www.scottishritetheatre.org**.

HAND TALK is a weekly sign language class for kids (*1-2pm*), with a follow-up session for adults (*2-3pm*). *Saturdays. Mitchie's Gallery, 6406 N. I-35 #2800, 923-9523. Free.* **www.mitchie.com**.

AUSTIN ROCK GYM LOCK-IN While you party this New Year's Eve, tie your tykes up at the Austin Rock Gym. Kids 10-15 will enjoy pizza, drinks, a piñata, and all the necessary gear to climb till they can't climb anymore. Lock-in limited to the first 40 participants. *Mon.-Tue., Dec. 31-Jan. 1, 8pm-7am. Austin Rock Gym, 4401 Freidrich, 416-9299. $30.* **www.austinrockgym.com**.

FA LA LA LA LA Sing some songs from one of the best collections of Christmas carols, *The Usborne Book of Carols*. Wear your Christmas colors! *Sat., Dec. 22, 11:30am. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.*

SUNDAY KIDS SHOW with violinist Sam Moses. *Sun., Dec. 23, 10:30am. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. Free.*

PLAYHOUSE DISNEY LIVE! Join the characters from *Mickey Mouse Clubhouse*, *Little Einsteins*, *Handy Manny*, and *My Friends Tigger and Pooh* for a Disney-riffic good time. *Thu., Dec. 27, 12:30-3:30pm. Frank Erwin Center, 1701 Red River, 471-7744. $20-35.* **www.uterwincenter.com, www.texasboxoffice.com**.

WINTER BREAK CAMPS AT AUSTIN NATURE & SCIENCE CENTER feature a new theme every day for ages 5-7 (like Animals in Winter, Beauty & the Creek, and Amazing Space) as well as ages 8-11 (with topics like Super Science, Migration & Hibernation, and Underground Adventurers). *Mon.-Wed., Dec. 26-28 & Jan. 2-4, 8am-5pm. (Weather Works Camp for ages 5-7: Mon., Jan. 7, 8am-5pm.) Austin Nature & Science Center, 301 Nature Center, 327-8181. $40 per day.* **www.ci.austin.tx.us/ansc**.

BLANTON MUSEUM Hot Art Hip Kids *Dec. 26 & 30, 3:30pm. The Blanton Museum of Art, MLK & Congress, 471-7324.*

Friday 21

A CULTURAL OCCASION celebrates the eve of the winter solstice with a Hill Country wine tasting to accompany an end-of-year art show and sale featuring the hand-woven baskets, beaded jewelry, sculptures, paintings, and glasswork of talented local artists. There will also be a silent auction to benefit **DiverseArts**' programs promoting cultural awareness and arts appreciation in Austin. *8-11pm. New East Gallery, 1601 E. Fifth #106, 477-9438. Donations accepted.* **www.diversearts.org**.

ALTERNATIVE RADIO presents legendary activist **Angela Davis**, author of *Abolition Democracy: Beyond Prisons, Torture and Empire*, discussing the death penalty and criminal justice. David Barsamian hosts. *2pm. KOOP Radio 91.7FM.* **www.koop.org**.

CHRISTMAS FEAST FOR THE HOMELESS Mobile Loaves & Fishes hosts this traditional Christmas dinner with holiday caroling and an appearance from Santa. *5:30pm. Caritas, 611 Neches, 916-8156. Free.* **www.mlfnow.org**.

CO-DEPENDENTS ANONYMOUS is a 12-step program for people interested in overcoming co-dependence and developing healthy relationships. *Tuesdays, 7pm; Riverbend Church, 4214 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 263-1037. Wednesdays, 7pm; Garden Terrace Residence, 1015 W. William Cannon, 243-0884; Fridays, 6:30pm; Shoal Creek Hospital, 3501 Mills, 243-0884.* **sunny55@austin.rr.com**.

DOWNTOWN GHOST TOURS offer nooks-and-crannies walking tours that spotlight the dead to bring Austin's history and geography to life. *Fri.-Sat., 8pm. 853-9826.* **www.hauntedtexas.com**.

EMANCIPET FREE DAYS This mobile spay/neuter clinic might be in *your* neighborhood today. Check **www.emancipet.org** to find out. *Fri.-Sat., check-in begins 8am (first come, first served). 587-SPAY. Free.*

FLU CLINIC You can check two seasonal staples off your to-do list at one place this year: Shop and get your winter flu vaccination at the mall. *Fridays & Saturdays, Through Dec. 23. Barton Creek Square, lower level Macy's court, 2901 Capital of TX Hwy. $30 (cash or check only; insurance not accepted).*

MAKEOVER MAGIC Learn mineral make-up tips today from Whole Foods' "holistic aesthetician" Traci Reazer. *2-5pm. Whole Foods Market, 525 N. Lamar, 476-1206. Free.*

PEOPLE UNITED presents **Sasha Abramsky**, author of *Conned: How Millions Went to Prison, Lost the Vote, and Helped Send George W. Bush to the White House*, talking about the voting rights of ex-felons. Allan Campbell hosts, with a weekly commentary from Rahul Mahajan. *1pm. KOOP Radio 91.7FM.* **www.koop.org**.

PERMACULTURE: AWARENESS IN THE ENVIRONMENT *Fridays, 9:15-10:15am. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. Free, with cafe purchase.*

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Forever Changes *Beerland*
ST 37, **Triplewide** *The Parlor*
Amplified Heat *Headhunters*
Asleep at the Wheel *Broken Spoke*
James Hand *Dirty Dog Bar*
Rosie Flores *Patsy's Cowgirl Cafe*
The Skunks, Teisco Del Rey *Continental Club*
Misc. Music Holidaze Party *Ruta Maya*
Li'l Cap'n Travis *Hole in the Wall*

Saturday 22

AUSTIN FARMERS' MARKET features fresh organic produce, meats, and cheeses straight from surrounding Texas farms, plus live music every week. *Saturdays, 9am-1pm. Republic Square Park, 422 Guadalupe, 974-6700. Free.* **www.austinfarmersmarket.org**.

FREE HOMEBUYER EDUCATION WORKSHOP Every fourth Saturday, the AAUE offers a workshop covering home-purchasing, mortgage-securing, and money management. Classes fill up quickly, so call to get on the waiting list. Personalized sessions are available. *10am-4pm. Austin Area Urban League Inc., 1825 38½, 478-7176.*

FRONT STEPS/AUSTIN RESOURCE CENTER FOR THE HOMELESS hosts an orientation session today featuring a tour and discussion of various volunteer opportunities. E-mail for details. *11am. Austin Resource Center for the Homeless, 500 E. Seventh, 305-4174.* **dperkins@frontsteps.org**, **www.frontsteps.org**.

MUSICAL FAVORITES IN THE DOG TROT CABIN Don't miss Erik Hokkanen playing old-time Texas tunes with his fiddle on the Dog Trot Cabin porch, part of the history museum's permanent exhibit collection. *2-4pm. Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 1800 Congress, 936-8746. $3-5.50.* **www.thestoryoftexas.com**.

SAHAJA YOGA MEDITATION aims to help you achieve balance, inner peace, and resistance to stress, depression, and anxiety. *Saturdays, 11am-noon. Austin Recreation Center, 1301 Shoal Creek Blvd., 828-0129. Free.* **www.austinsahajayoga.org**.

SIMPLY STRESS-FREE MAKE-UP TIPS Whole Foods' "holistic aesthetician" Traci Reazer teaches you her five-, 10-, and 15-minute make-up routines today. (Sign up in the Whole Body cosmetic area.) *2-5pm. Whole Foods Market, 525 N. Lamar, 476-1206. Free.*

TASTE OF WHOLE FOODS MARKET Call ahead or register at the concierge desk for this tasting tour conducted by dietitian Hannah Wong. *11am-noon. Whole Foods Market, 525 N. Lamar, 542-2243. Free.*

TILING FLOORS & WALLS CLINIC *Saturdays, 11am. All Home Depot locations. Free.* **www.homedepotclinics.com**.

WINE & BEER INFORMATIONALS Whole Foods' beverage experts host tasting sessions and Q&As every week for wine- and beer-lovers (or the soon-to-be): **Wine 101** (at the wine kiosk), *Saturdays, 10:30-11am*; **Beer 101** (at the beer kiosk), *Sundays, noon-12:30pm. Whole Foods Market, 525 N. Lamar, 476-1206.*

YELLERDAWG/SATURDAY SAGES DEMOCRATS WEEKLY MEETING *Saturdays, 11am. Tres Amigos, 1801 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 327-1776.* **bmcafee@austin.rr.com**.

YULE RITUAL Gather round the yule fire at the Vortex for a family celebration of the winter solstice, with storytelling, crafts, food, and more. Dress for the cold! *3pm. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. Free.*

DOWNTOWN GHOST TOURS (See Friday.)

EMANCIPET FREE DAYS (See Friday.)

FLU CLINIC (See Friday.)

VISUAL ARTS (See Arts Listings.)
Flaming O Ranch Studio Party

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
***Emmet Otter's Jug-Band Christmas*: Uncut** *@ Alamo South, noon*
Nutcracker *@ Highland, 2, 5pm*
The Rocky Horror Picture Show *@ Alamo Village, 12mid*

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Future Clouds & Radar *Stubb's*
Ghost of the Russian Empire, **IV Thieves** *Emo's*
Mary Welch y los Curanderos *Patsy's Cowgirl Cafe*
Ephraim Owens Quintet *Elephant Room*
Paul Ray & the Cobras *Continental Club*
Papa Mali, Ruthie Foster, Cyril Neville, Gurf Morlix, Guy Forsyth *Saxon Pub*

Sunday 23

HERITAGE ARTISANS Visit Pioneer Farms today for special demonstrations of 19th century rural life in Central Texas (and don't forget to buy your annual PF pass at the special introductory rate before it expires *Dec. 31*). *1-5pm. Pioneer Farms, 10621 Pioneer Farms Dr., 837-1215. $8 ($6, kids).* **www.pioneerfarms.org**.

UNTITLED So-called because they don't subscribe to labels, this group of "post-college, pre-kids" young professionals hopes to offer an alternative to mainstream church and meets regularly to discuss life and faith. *10am. Quad 5-C at Riverbend Church, 4214 Capital of TX Hwy. N. Free.* **www.riverbend.com**.

WINE & BEER INFORMATIONALS (See Saturday.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
Nutcracker *@ Highland, 2, 5pm*
The Wizard of Oz* With *Dark Side of the Moon *@ Alamo Ritz, 9:45pm*

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Fire vs. Extinguisher *Beerland*
Ralph White *The Parlor*
The Friday Group *Salvage Vanguard Theater*

day TRIPS

BY GERALD E. MCLEOD

Christmas lights twinkling on the horizon look like the fireflies of winter. Up close, the lights create a colorful world where everything seems to dance. Texans love their holiday displays.

We're fortunate to have one of the best concerted lighting displays in the state just west of town. The Hill Country Regional Christmas Lighting Trail dresses Boerne, Burnet, Dripping Springs, Fredericksburg, Goldthwaite, Johnson City, Llano, Marble Falls, New Braunfels, Round Mountain, and Wimberley in glowing finery. Most of the towns have special events like carriage rides, carolers, and refreshments available for visitors.

Of the 11 participants, the Walkway of Lights in Marble Falls is the crown jewel. A million twinkling lights reflecting off the lake is a sight better seen than imagined. Since 1991, the community has constructed 130 sculptures covered with lights. The lighted extravaganza opens nightly from 6 to 10pm through Jan. 1.

Lights Spectacular in Johnson City drapes the historic courthouse and town square in light that seems to cascade over the walls. The courthouse lawn becomes a playground doused in soft, golden light. The lighting display comes on nightly from 6 to 9pm through Jan. 1.

Right on Main Street in Fredericksburg, Market Square is decorated with hundreds of colorful lighted sculptures. The display even includes an outdoor ice-skating rink that is open until Jan. 6. The lighting display is up every evening from 6 to 10pm through Jan. 1.

For a complete list of participating towns and special events on the Hill Country Trail, go to **www.tex-fest.com** or call 830/997-8515.

East of the capital city, the Lights of the Blackland include special lighting displays in Bartlett, Bastrop, Elgin, Coupland, Granger, Hutto, Taylor, Thorndale, and Thrall. Escape the hectic shopping malls for the serenity of a stroll in Bastrop along the Colorado River bathed in colorful lights, or walk through the displays in the park in Taylor. For information, go to **www.lightsoftheblackland.com** or call 512/352-6364. Combine a drive to see the lights along TX 95 or U.S. 79 with a visit to a Christmas-tree farm (**www.texaschristmastrees.com**).

Fort Hood hosts one of the largest and most spectacular holiday lighting displays in Central Texas. Volunteers have turned the 800-acre Belton Lake Outdoor Recreation Area off Loop 121 on Sparta Road in Killeen into a fantastic display of lights. There are more than 100 animated lighting displays, some as large as 40-feet-high and 300-feet-wide. At the end of the driving tour is Santa's Village with refreshments and Saint Nick. Admission starts at $5 per car and increases by the size of the vehicle. The display is active daily from 5:30 to 11pm through Jan. 6. For information, go to **www.hoodmwr.com** or call 254/287-2523.

The granddaddy of all Christmas-light displays in Texas is the Wonderland of Lights in Marshall. The town square around the historic courthouse is beautifully decked in thousands of colorful lights and figures. The outdoor ice-skating rink fills a parking lot with activity away from the carriage rides and carolers. The lights are ablaze 6-10pm, through Dec. 31. For information go to **www.marshalltxchamber.com** or call 903/935-7868.

To see a really cool Christmas exhibit head to Gaylord Texan Resort and Convention Center in Grapevine, where the light-emitting diode lights are frozen in 2 tons of ice. It takes 40 artisans 34 days to hand-carve the display that is housed in a special building at 9 degrees. Parkas are furnished. The ice exhibit opens Sunday-Thursday, 10am-9pm, and Friday-Saturday, 10am-10pm. Tickets are $20 for adults and $10 for children on weekdays and $23 and $12 on weekends. For information go to **www.gaylordhotels.com** or call 866/782-7897.

One of the most beautiful lighting displays is the simple luminaries around Mission Espíritu Santo State Historic Site at Goliad State Park. The more-than-250-year-old Spanish colonial mission is accented with soft light from dark to 10pm daily. Call 361/645-3405 for more information.

Admission to all of the lighting displays is free unless otherwise noted.

859th in a series. Day Trips, Vol. 2, *a book of "Day Trips" 101-200, is available for $8.95, plus $3.05 for shipping, handling, and tax. Mail to: Day Trips, PO Box 33284, South Austin, TX 78704.*

out of town

BY GERALD E. MCLEOD

TEXAS HILL COUNTRY REGIONAL CHRISTMAS LIGHTING TRAIL leads to special events in Boerne, Burnet, Dripping Springs, Llano, Goldthwaite, Johnson City, Marble Falls, Round Mountain, New Braunfels, and Wimberley. *Through Jan. 1. 866/839-3378.* **www.tex-fest.com**.

EMILYANN TRAIL OF LIGHTS features lighted displays and nightly entertainment around Ye Olde Yule Log. *Through Jan. 1. EmilyAnn Theatre, Wimberley, 512/847-6969.* **www.emilyann.org**.

CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT STROLL winds through the Downtown area, where choirs share carols and churches provide refreshments. *Fri., Dec. 21. 512/303-0810. Free.*

LO AND BEHOLD showcases the art of folk artists Mike Miller, Tom Sale, the Rev. Johnnie Swearingen, and L.T. Thomas. The gallery is a depository for folk art collected from around the South. *Through Feb. 17. Saturdays & Sundays. Webb Art Gallery, 209 W. Franklin, Waxahachie, 972/938-8085. Free.* **www.webbartgallery.com**.

COWBOY CHRISTMAS celebrates the holidays Old West-style in a town originally built as a movie set with a cowboy Santa, gunslingers, tractor-pulled wagon rides, cowboy magician, exotic animals, and refreshments. *Sat.-Sun., Dec. 22-23, 10am-5pm. Enchanted Springs Ranch, Boerne, 830/249-8222. $10 ($5, kids).* **www.enchantedspringsranch.com**.

BOXING DAY is the day recognized in the British Commonwealth when gifts are presented to those in the service industries. At the winery, it will be a time to tell stories, share songs, and enjoy refreshments. *Wed., Dec. 26, 10am-5pm. Becker Vineyards, Stonewall, 830/644-2681. Free.* **www.beckervineyards.com**.

PLAYING THROUGH

BY THOMAS HACKETT

DOUG POTTER

The list of ignominy is eye-poppingly long: **Roger Clemens**, **Barry Bonds**, **David Justice**, **Miguel Tejada**, **Ken Caminiti**, **George W. Bush**, **Dick Cheney**, **Donald Rumsfeld**, **Colin Powell**, **George Tenet** …

No, no, no. I'm not saying that the Bush administration had anything to do with the rampant abuse of steroids in Major League Baseball. That began well before Bush took office, back when he was a 1% investor in the Texas Rangers and the team's designated glad-hander. What I am saying is that the culture that happily tolerated cheating in sports is part and parcel of the same culture that abetted the blatant chicanery that got us into Iraq.

This is a sports column, and I can appreciate that most sports fans prefer to take their sports neat. But the cultural hypocrisy generated by last week's Mitchell Report is … well, I was going to say that it is hard to ignore, except that, as near as I can tell, nearly every sports columnist and cultural commentator has ignored the big picture. These people talk loftily about the great game's loss of integrity. To make their sanctimonious point, some of these writers even quote President Bush, saying that steroids have, sadly, sullied the game.

Please.

First of all, let's stop playing the innocent here. It's not as if we haven't known for nearly a decade that these guys were juiced to the gills. We knew, and nobody minded. Not their teammates, not their managers, definitely not the owners and baseball Commissioner **Bud Selig**, and for the most part, not us fans.

Second, a little perspective. As egregious as the abuse has been, let's not forget: These guys are merely playing a game. Compared to, oh, I don't know, unprovoked war, this isn't life or death.

Third, I seemed to have missed something. When exactly did we become so principled? The news media is duly upset and offended that UT's Roger Clemens was jacked-up on human-growth hormones, yet where was that dismay when the evidence came pouring in that the Bush administration had lied to our faces about weapons of mass destruction in Iraq?

"There was a collective failure to recognize the problem as it emerged and to deal with it early on," former Sen. **George Mitchell** said in his report – a pretty good description of the indifference to truth that got us into Iraq. In both cases, we knew what was going on. We just didn't care enough to put a stop to it.

The cheaters in baseball and the liars in the Bush administration operated according to the same cynical philosophy: Get away with whatever you can, and when and if you finally get caught, you can rest assured that there will be no real price to pay. Sure, everyone will have figured out that you're a fraud. In the meantime, you'll have had your fun.

Club 'Chronicle'

They came. They trained. They conquered. Every member of Club *Chronicle* crossed the Trail of Lights 5K finish line on Saturday, Dec. 8. "We all finished the race, including Ian [Forslund], in spirit, carried on Lizzie [Thompson]'s back in the form of a picture," **Katie Lopez**, 32, said. Forslund, 42, was unable to train or run due to health issues.

The was the second year Zen Japanese Food Fast has organized the Trail of Lights 5K challenge but the first the *Chronicle* has sponsored a team. In September, 130 people registered for the challenge; 10 made the final cut – 10 who would soon run their first 5K.

Club CHRONICLE
TEAM ZEN CHALLENGE

For two months, Club *Chronicle* trained together every Saturday at 8am with **Patrick Guy** from RunTex and continued all the way up to the day of the race. "I was looking forward to sleeping in," Lopez said. "Two runs in one day will be a record for me!"

The Club *Chronicle* winner was not based on speed but left up to *Chronicle* readers; the only stipulation for the runners was that they had to cross the finish line. Voting closed on Saturday, Dec. 15, with Lopez taking the grand prize: a one-year membership to Pure Austin, gift certificates to Zen and the Brain & Spine Center, and two 2008 South by Southwest wristbands.

Fairly new to the world of motherhood, Lopez thought that the baby weight would melt off after the baby came. It didn't. She looked to the Zen Challenge to help her become healthier and more in shape for her family and herself.

Lopez finished faster than she expected – in about 35 minutes. "I forgot to turn around and see what the timer said when I crossed; I was too busy looking out for other people, dogs, and strollers so that I wouldn't fall," she said of the eclectic mix the Trail of Lights 5K tends to bring: walking presents, decorated strollers, reindeer dogs, and Santas in Speedos.

"We all have it in us to get in shape – I think sometimes we just need people to be accountable to." After her first 5K, she says she's hooked. "It's been a great opportunity; I want to keep training and do some more." – *Kristine Tofte*

Monday 24

CHRISTMAS YOGA Become one with the holiday spirit! Bring your mat, and join instructor Sonia Weirich for this daily scenic class (weather permitting), taught on the docks overlooking the pond behind the Dougherty Arts Center. Check **www.myspace.com/onetooneyoga** for rain (or snow?!) cancellation info. *Daily, noon-1pm. Meet in the park behind Dougherty Arts Center. Donations accepted (10% goes to KIVA.org to help entrepreneurial projects in developing countries).*

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH invites you to Christmas Eve services featuring the music of composer/pianist Joseph Martin and his wife, vocalist Sue Martin. *5pm. First Baptist Church, 901 Trinity, 476-2625.* **www.fbcaustin.org**.

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
Head *@ Alamo Ritz, 9:45pm*
Nutcracker *@ Highland, 2pm*

Tuesday 25

DEBBIE & RUSTY'S XMAS XARAOKE It wouldn't be Christmas in Austin without this annual orphan tradition at the Hole in the Wall. *10pm. Hole in the Wall, 2538 Guadalupe, 477-4747.*

HOUSE THE HOMELESS' THERMAL UNDERWEAR DISTRIBUTION DAY Warm thermal-underwear tops and bottoms – as well as hats, gloves, socks, and scarves – are available today to anyone in need, thanks to House the Homeless (which is still taking donations, as well; see Ongoing, Thermal Underwear Drive, for details). *Noon. First Baptist Church, 901 Trinity, 796-4366.*

VOLUNTEER WITH CREATIVE SPIRIT UCC Austin's new Creative Spirit United Church of Christ could use some help today with serving warm meals to the homeless. Call or e-mail if you'd like to volunteer. *Austin City Church, 1700 S. Lamar, 527-4455.* **cheatham@austin.rr.com**, **www.creativespiritucc.info**.

CHRISTMAS YOGA (See Monday.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
The Wizard of Oz* With *Dark Side of the Moon *@ Alamo Ritz, 9:45pm*

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Dale Watson's annual Christmas Show & Dance *Continental Club*

Wednesday 26

MIDWEEK AUSTIN FARMERS' MARKET brings you more than 40 local food and craft vendors, rain or shine. *Wednesdays, 3-7pm. The Triangle, 46th Street, between Guadalupe & Lamar. Free.* **www.austinfarmersmarket.org**.

WELLNESS WEDNESDAYS feature free yoga every week. E-mail to RSVP. *Wednesdays, 6:30pm. Lululemon Athletica Showroom, 3700 Kerbey Ln. Free.* **austin-community@lululemon.com**.

RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE (See Ongoing.)

CO-DEPENDENTS ANONYMOUS (See Friday.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
(Good) ***Friday*** *@ Alamo Ritz, 9:45pm*
Drunken Wutang *@ Alamo Ritz, 12mid*
The Wizard of Oz* With *Dark Side of the Moon *@ Alamo Ritz, 12mid*

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Miss Lavelle White, Alan Haynes, Ruthie Foster *Momo's*
Trans-Siberian Orchestra *Frank Erwin Center*
Pinetop Perkins, **Lou Ann Barton** *Antone's*

Thursday 27

RECOVERY INC. MEETINGS (See Thursday 12/20.)

SPANGLISH 101 (See Thursday 12/20.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
The Wizard of Oz* With *Dark Side of the Moon *@ Alamo Ritz, 12mid*

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Thulsa Doom, **the Snake Trap** *Whisky Bar*
Arc Angels *Antone's*

Sports

BY MARK FAGAN

THE HOME TEAMS

THE AUSTIN GAMBLERS is Austin's longest-running GLBT league, and they are on the hunt for some more bowlers to fill out the spring season, which runs January through April. To sign up, call Tom (*791-4299*) or Steve (*833-8103*) or e-mail **sschoendienst@sbcglobal.net**. *Tuesdays, 8:30pm, starting Jan. 15. Dart Bowl, 5700 Grover Ave., 452-2518. $14 weekly, plus a one-time sanction fee of $18.*

AUSTIN TOROS For more on the Toros see the **austinchronicle.com/sports**. Vs. Tulsa: *Fri.-Sat., Dec. 27-28, 7pm. Austin Convention Center, 500 E. Cesar Chavez. $8-23.* **www.nba.com/dleague/austin**.

RECREATION & FITNESS

AUSTIN UNITED CAPITAL SOCCER CLUB has open registration for the spring 2008 season going on *now*. Apply online or at the main office, *5716 Hwy. 290 W. #212 (Oak Acres Shopping Center), 899-1049.* **www.austinsoccer.org**.

COWBOYS BLACKOUT TOURNAMENT & WATCH PARTY This two-person best-ball tourney (open to the public) features closest-to-the-pin and long-drive contests. Cash prizes. Stick around for the Cowboys/Carolina Panthers afterward, with $2 brews during the game. *Sat., Dec. 22, 1pm (shotgun start). Lago Vista Country Club, 4616 Rimrock Dr., 512/267-1170. $40 ($25, members).* **www.lagovistagolfclub.com**.

LAGO VISTA HOLIDAY SHOOTOUT Two-person scramble open to the public with cash prizes for skins and flight winners. They'll be serving free appetizers during the Sunday night football broadcast. *Sun., Dec. 23. Lago Vista Country Club, 4616 Rimrock Dr., 512/267-1170. $40 ($25, members).* **www.lagovistagolfclub.com**.

RUNS, WALKS, & RIDES

5K FOR KIMBIA WEDDING FUN RUN Most of us will need some exercise following holiday feasting, and the **KIMbia Foundation** needs your help. This chip-timed race will raise funds to help sponsor a boy's tuition for a year of school at the the Silgich Hill Academy and a year of learnin' for a young lady at the Singore Girls Secondary School. *Wed., Dec. 26, 6pm. Jack & Adam's Bicycles, 1210 Barton Springs Rd., 472-5646.* **www.chasingkimbia.com/auction.php**.

Wake Forest won the NCAA Men's Division I championship on Sunday, coming from a goal down at halftime to beat **Ohio State**, 2-1. It was the first finals appearance for either team.

Soccer WATCH

European player of the year **Kaká** had a goal and two assists to lead **AC Milan** to the **Club World Cup** title on Sunday in Japan, beating Argentina's Boca Juniors, 4-2.

Tottenham, Everton, Chelsea, and Arsenal advanced to the **Carling Cup** semifinals this week. … And with that, the **2007** football schedule draws pretty much to a close.

Not, however, before the first annual **L.C. Winter Cup** takes place this Saturday, down the street. Call or e-mail for more info.

The English Football Association named **Fabio Capello** to be the new coach of the **England** national team last week. The Italian has won major trophies everywhere he's coached – AC Milan, Roma, Juventus, Real Madrid – but he'll have a long, hard road with England, who recently failed to qualify for next summer's Euro championships and doesn't even have a meaningful game until qualifying begins for the 2010 World Cup. – *Nick Barbaro*

the GAY place

BY KATE X MESSER AND KATE GETTY

LAST EV-AR COOCHIE COO: SPECIAL QUEERAOKE EDITION Come out to the very last **Coochie Coo**, brought to you by the fine folks behind **Foodies** (women who love women who love food). Let's send it off with a flourish. Let's pack the joint. Join the **Gay Place**'s **K8X** for some rousing **Queeraoke With K8**. Do not be L8. (*I gots new books and 20 new discs! Whoots!*) *Thu., Dec. 20, 9pm-2am. The Peacock, 515 Pedernales, 276-8979.*

THRIFTY THURSDAY THEATRE All month long, enjoy you-call-it priced nights out at the show. Enjoy Blake Yelavich's adaptation *When More Pigs Fly*, a story that tells you to believe in your dreams, no matter what anybody else tells you. Cute. *Thu., Dec. 20. Arts on Real Theatre, 2826 Real (behind Flatbed Press), 472-2787. $12-35.* **www.artsonreal.com**.

ONE MORE DAY TO GIVE The **Family Equality Council** stands for families like that of Suzy, a 9-year-old who was physically abused by school peers on her playground because she told her classmates that her mother was a lesbian. FEC was there for the family, supporting, easing the pain. An anonymous donor agreed to match dollar-for-dollar any donations up until tomorrow: *Fri., Dec. 21.* So act now. Suzies across the world need your help. **www.kintera.org/autogen/home/default.asp?ievent=104468**.

MYSPACE IS FOR QUEERS Queers named **Gay Place**. Yup. We are on the **MySpace**, unabashed in our quest to crack 2,999. (Who said "ho"?) We'd be proud to have you as our friend. Check our occasional specially themed top friends, and see if you make the cut. **gayplace@austinchronicle.com**, **www.myspace.com/gayplace**.

BOWLING SHOES So they haven't really been hot since Seattle and flannel, but slip on a pair, and it don't matter what it looks like; it's just how you roll. Get White Russians in yer beard, strike, spare, and even hang with some queerollers. Hot. Join the **Austin Gamblers**, our very own GLBT bowling league, who begin their spring season: *Tue., Jan. 15*. Sign up now! (Join weekly bowling nights, too: *Tues., 8:30pm*.) *Through Jan. 15. Dart Bowl, 5700 Grover, Tom: 791-4299; Steve: 833-8103.* **sschoendienst@sbcglobal.net**.

MY DINNER AT CHARLIE'S Well, now you never have to leave **Charlie's**, not even for the holidays! They served over 220 folks this past Thanksgiving and expect at least as much for the big Santa/Baby Jesus day on Tuesday! **Chef Michael** will start serving at 1pm until the feast is all gone. So get there early. The club will then open until 2am for your mackin' and dancin' pleasure. *Holiday Feast: Tue., Dec. 25, 1pm. Charlie's, 1301 Lavaca, 474-6481.*

LIKE BABY SITTER'S CLUB, BUT GAY What a great idea. **Dykes With Tykes**. Some of our favorites: CampCamp's Rayna (er, Kai); her younger sister, Lily; baby Nova Luna (who won our hearts with a stapler at the Dinah Shore); and Lizzy C. – all qualified caretakers (some work at alternative preschool Habibi's Hutch) are available to take care of your kids. Just write 'em. **dykes.with.tykes@gmail.com**.

GRETCHEN'S BITCHIN' NEW SITE Check it out. A trip down memory lane and into the future with the quintessential Austin lesbian musician, **Gretchen Phillips**, on a new Chepo-fied info superhighway. We're not worthy. **www.gretchen-phillips.com**.

WAKE UP AND SMELL THE TUNA Mmmmm Mmm! The duo of **Joe Sears** and **Jaston Williams** play just about every character you'd imagine in imaginary Tuna, Texas. Quick costume changes, old-fashioned holiday radio, and hilarity. Cross-dressing never had it this good since Rudy G. saw his calves in stilettos for the first time. *Runs: Jan. 8-13; Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2pm, 8pm; Sun., 2pm, 7:30pm. Paramount Theatre, 713 Congress, 472-5470. $18-44.*

TWELVE STEP PROGRAM It's that time of year again, when you remember how truly insane hanging out with your family can make you. (No wonder bars do so well this season.) Celebrating that madness is Rob Nash's *Twelve Steps to a More Dysfunctional Christmas*, laughing at the truth in family bonding, finding some meaning in it all. *Thu.-Sun., Dec. 27-30, 8pm. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. $10-30 (pick your price).* **vortex@vortexrep.org**, **www.vortexrep.org**.

SCHIZOPHRENIC BUT SOCIAL Sure, these cats have had some trouble nailing down a name and entity, but here we have it. 'Twas **De'or**, now it's **KISS!**, a retro dance party for all those who boogie, every Friday with the Crystal Princess herself on the spin, **DJ PJ Ragsworth**. No Cover if you're old enough to booze, hound. *Fridays, 9pm. The Cockpit Club, 113 San Jacinto, 457-8010. 9pm.* **www.myspace.com/deorparty**.

CREATIVE SPIRIT UCC & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY Rip it up with this radically inclusive, progressive new community of faith. Kick-off service just in time for the holidays! No hellfire. No brimstone. Just music, art, and inspiration. *And* if you wish to offer up some goodwill on **The Holiday Proper**, *Tue., Dec. 25*, the good Rev. is putting together some meal and some outreach for the homeless at one of the supporting churches and could sure use some eager and friendly folks to help serve and coordinate. Can I get an amen? *Saturdays, 5pm, beginning Dec. 22. Austin City Church, 1700 S. Lamar, 527-4455.* **cheatham@austin.rr.com**, **www.creativespiritucc.info**.

CAGED BIRDS SING Just in time to make all our holiday cares melt away, **Rob Faubion** and his lovely "ladies" bring back **La Cage**, drag nights voted the Best Female Impersonation Show in Texas. Thank goodness. Chers and Whitneys and Barbras done up with ridiculous flair. Sundays are baaaaaaack. *Sundays, 9:30 & 11:30pm. Oilcan Harry's, 211 W. Fourth, 320-8823.*

TUESDAYS TOGETHER OFF FOR THE HOLIDAYS This last-Tuesday-of-every-month at rotating locations event for **Human Rights Campaign** is taking December off for the holidays. Check back in January for more events and news about the big gala! *Whole Foods Market, 525 N. Lamar, 289-2198.* **info@hrcaustin.org**, **www.hrc.org/austin**.

***For more gay stuff, see Calendar online:* austinchronicle.com.**
***Send gay bits to* gayplace@austinchronicle.com.**

Ongoing Events

HOST A CREEK CLEANUP Is the creek you love filled with beer cans and six-pack rings? All you have to do is gather some friends to clean it up, and Keep Austin Beautiful and Watershed Protection and Development Review will give you all the guidance and materials you need. *391-0617. Free.* **www.keepaustinbeautiful.org/page.php?p_page_child_id=180**.

FREE HOUSECLEANING FOR WOMEN WITH CANCER The last thing you wanna do when you don't feel well is clean the house … or live in a dirty one. Luckily, Texas-based nonprofit Cleaning for a Reason provides professional housecleaning services for women undergoing cancer treatment. Each patient qualifies for three free cleanings. See **www.welcomehomecleaning.com** for details. *335-0862.* **slbutza@yahoo.com**.

REVEALING CAPITOL TREASURES The Capitol Visitors Center's newest exhibit features artifacts found during archaeological digs on the Capitol grounds, historic artwork and photos of the building, the original tools used to place the Goddess of Liberty atop the dome, and other Capitol curiosities. *Through Jan. 27. Capitol Visitors Center, 112 E. 11th, 305-8400.* **www.texascapitolvisitorscenter.com**.

RIVER OF LIGHTS The trail along the Colorado River is lit with holiday displays and filled with music every night this holiday season. *Through Dec. 31. Fisherman's Park to Ferry Park, Bastrop. Free (gifts for the Pink Santa Program are welcome).* **www.bastropchamber.com**.

I LIVE HERE, I GIVE HERE Apparently, Austinites donate less to nonprofits than other people do. In fact, per capita, we rank 48th out of the 50 largest U.S. cities in the U.S. Who knew we were so stingy? The I Live Here, I Give Here campaign aims to change that, with your help. Visit **www.ilivehereigivehere.org** to see how you can make a difference.

THERMAL UNDERWEAR DRIVE It doesn't take much to help Austin's homeless stay warm this winter. One $10 donation is enough to outfit someone with a thermal top and pair of pants this winter. To donate, call *796-4366*, or send your check to *House the Homeless Inc., PO Box 2312, Austin, 78768*. **www.housethehomeless.org**.

SANTA'S RANCH TRAIL OF LIGHTS This drive-through display features more than 1.5 million lights along a Christmas trail winding through 10 acres of holiday displays (including 300 different characters and 45 holiday scenes). *Through Dec. 30. Sun.-Thu., 6-10pm; Fri.-Sat., 6-11pm. Santa's Ranch, 9561 N. I-35, New Braunfels, 830/743-1293. $17 per vehicle ($35, season pass).* **www.santasranch.net**.

SCHLOTZSKY'S BUN RUN T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST You could be the one who decides what 5,000 runners will be wearing in Schlotzsky's Bun Run 5K this spring – and win $1,000 while you're at it. You may submit up to three designs; you must be at least 13 years old to participate. Mail entries to: *Schlotzsky's 2008 Bun Run T-Shirt Design Contest, 301 Congress #100, Austin, TX 78701. Deadline: Jan. 15.* **www.bunrun.com**.

FIRST NIGHT VOLUNTEERS are needed this New Year's Eve to help make First Night's grand procession, fireworks displays, and performances go off without a hitch. Your help will be valuable whether you only have a couple of hours to spare or want to spend your whole evening volunteering. Call *374-0000* or see **www.firstnightaustin.org** for details. *Mon., Dec. 31, 3pm-12mid. Downtown Austin.* **volunteer@firstnightaustin.org**.

SHERIFF'S CITIZENS' ACADEMY is recruiting the next batch of students for the 13-week class kicking off Feb. 12. Students will get a behind-the-scenes look at what it's like to work for the Travis Co. Sheriff's Office. Call or e-mail for details. *Tuesdays, 6:45-10pm. 854-4989.* **vincente.galloway@co.travis.tx.us**.

FREE COUNSELING FOR VETERANS The Samaritan Counseling Center now offers free counseling services to those who've served in Afghanistan or Iraq, as well as to the parents, children, siblings, spouses, and partners of servicemen and women. Call or e-mail for details. *Samaritan Counseling Center, 5425-A Burnet Rd., 451-7337.* **hopeforheroes@samaritan-center.org**, **www.samaritan-center.org**.

LOVE YOUR LIBRARY Got a few literary types on your gift list this year? Betcha they'd be happy to know you'd bought a book in their honor for the **Austin Public Library**. Just fill out the the easy form at **www.cityofaustin.org/library/novel.htm** and send to *Austin Public Library, PO Box 2287, Austin TX 78768-2287* (or stop by any library location to donate in person). *$15-50.*

RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE! Beginning Dec. 26, those of you who are Pay-as-You-Throw customers may leave Christmas trees (minus the stand and ornaments) curbside on your yard trimming/recycling pick-up days. (Those of you who are not Pay-as-You-Throw customers may still recycle your trees by dropping them off at Zilker Park, beginning *Dec. 30*.) All trees will be ground into mulch, to be given away for free in January. See **www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/christmastree.htm** for details.

GO GREEN FOR THE HOLIDAYS Give a gift to the planet this year by making your holidays earth-friendly. The city of Austin has posted tips online, as has Keep Austin Beautiful. Check them out at **www.keepaustinbeautiful.org**.

THE BIRTHDAY WAGON This local nonprofit organizes birthday parties for children who live in Austin area shelters. See **www.thebirthdaywagon.org** if you'd like to volunteer, make a tax-deductable donation, or become a sponsor.

IN CITIZEN'S GARB: SOUTHERN PLAINS NATIVE AMERICANS, 1889-1891 explores how life changed in the late 1800s for the Kiowa and Comanche tribes that were forced by the U.S. government to adopt Euro-American lifestyles. *Through Jan. 6. Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 1800 Congress, 936-8746. $5.50 ($4.50, seniors/military; $3, kids ages 5-18).* **www.thestoryoftexas.com**.

MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY ASSOCIATION SUMMER CAMP is seeking volunteer camp counselors interested in working this summer with youth (ages 6-21) who have neuromuscular diseases. Call *800/572-1717* or see **www.mda.org/clinics/camp** for application details.

GAME OVER VIDEO GAMES just opened its brand-new in-store video game museum featuring classic gaming posters, consoles spanning the past three decades, and more. Stop by, play some Atari, and get in touch with your inner 7-year-old. *Mon.-Sat., 11am-8pm; Sun., 11am-6pm. Game Over, 911 W. Anderson #112, 454-GAME.* **www.gameovervideogames.com**.

HOLIDAY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR MEALS ON WHEELS Before you party, why not give a little? Meals on Wheels is looking for volunteers to help deliver food to the homebound across Austin on New Year's Eve day. Start your 2008 resolution – to help – early. **www.mealsonwheelsandmore.org**.

SKATING ON THE PLAZA It's easy to pretend you live in a state with four actual seasons when you're ice-skating on the rooftop plaza! *Daily, 10am-9pm (closed Christmas). Whole Foods Market, 525 N. Lamar, 542-2260. $10.* **www.wholefoodsmarket.com/stores/calendars/LMR.html**.

YELLOW BIKE PROJECT … EN ESPAÑOL! The Yellow Bike Project – which, among other things, holds bike-repair workshops, donates bicycles to area kids, and releases free yellow bikes into the wild for anyone who needs them – has launched a new Spanish-language version of their website, which you should check out, here: **www.austinyellowbike.org/home_esp.htm**. You should also drop in on their new bilingual bike repair shop on *Mondays, 6-10pm*, at the *Main Shop, 2013 E. 51st*.

WHO DESERVES A MADI? MADIs are for those African-American Austinites who've done the most for our community in any area from entrepreneurship and politics to education, religion, and sports. Who do you know who deserves a MADI? You have till *Mon., Dec. 31*, to visit **www.austinmadis.com** and nominate them. *Deadline: Dec. 31.*

CANCER CONNECTION seeks cancer survivors and loved ones of survivors who are interested in providing emotional support to patients currently battling the disease. The next orientation session will be *Fri.-Sat., Jan. 25-26*. See **www.thecancerconnection.org** for details. *342-0233.*

DO GOOD DELI Next time you need a sandwich, try calling the Do Good Deli. Not only will they bring you your sandwich, but they'll give 100% of the proceeds to Caritas of Austin to help fight the good fight against poverty – and bad sandwiches. Just order online, by phone, or by fax. (Group orders only; $20 minimum.) *Downtown, I-35 to Lamar & Cesar Chavez to 12th, 394-7945.* **www.dogooddeli.com**.

AUSTIN FIREFIGHTERS 2008 WOMEN'S CALENDAR It's here. It's hot. And it's for a good cause. Let Austin's female firefighters keep you on schedule this year as they grace the pages of this 2008 calendar benefiting the **Austin Firefighters' Fund**. *441-7572. $15.* **austinfirefightersfund@yahoo.com**, **www.austinfirefighterscalendar.com**.

DOG FENCE FUND provides vouchers to Austin families who can't afford to comply with the new ordinance prohibiting dog-chaining, a practice considered dangerous for pets and people. The vouchers allow families to buy the materials necessary for building fenced enclosures for their pets. If you'd like to donate to the fund to help families keep their pets, send checks to: *Austin Community Foundation, PO Box 5159, Austin, TX 78763*. Chain Free Austin is also accepting donations of new and gently used dog houses; call *923-8881* for details. **www.chainfreeaustin.org**.

SIMS VOLUNTEERS ROCK! This new program needs dedicated volunteers to help get the word out about the SIMS Foundation's work providing mental-health services to Austin musicians. You'll be going to music events or working in the office. Call or e-mail if you're interested. *791-4929.* **volunteerinfo@simsfoundation.org**, **www.simsfoundation.org**.

THIS WEEK ONLY

EVERGREEN FARMS It's not too late to chop down your very own Virginia pine or Leyland cypress for your living room this year. Or just enjoy the campfire, paint some pinecones, go on a hay ride, play games, or enjoy Evergreen Farms' nature trail and farm animals. *Through Dec. 24. Mon.-Fri., noon-dusk; Sat.-Sun., 9am-dusk. Evergreen Farms, 242 Monkey Rd., Elgin.* **www.evergreen-farms.com**.

SOUTHPARK MEADOWS CHRISTMAS LASER SPECTACULAR It's a Christmas feast for your eyeballs, a laser-light extravaganza to behold: Sing Christmas songs, get your picture taken with Santa Claus, and let the producers of the Pink Floyd Laser Spectacular show you the true meaning of holiday spirit. *Fri.-Sun., Dec. 21-23, 6, 7, 8, & 9pm. Southpark Meadows, 9300 S. I-35, 210/698-8855. Free.* **www.southparkmeadowslive.com**.

ZILKER PARK TRAIL OF LIGHTS has 43 lighted displays to keep you mesmerized, plus nightly entertainment, food, and rides on the Zilker Zephyr minitrain. Don't forget to bring a new, unwrapped toy for donation to **Operation Blue Santa**. *Through Dec. 23, 7-10pm. Zilker Park, 2100 Barton Springs Rd., 974-6700.* **www.cityofaustin.org/tol**.

The Assumption

Blue Theater, through Dec. 21 Running Time: 1 hr, 50 min

The Assumption begins with a crew of madcap ruffians milling about a postapocalyptic, white-trash wonderland constructed in the parking lot outside the Blue Theater. They shoot the shit, drink beer, and throw bikes into a tree. After a giant bear chases them inside, the loading docks of the building are opened for the audience to follow. You must wander through the mosaic of trailer-trash baubles and over the stage swamp via a plank-board bridge to reach your seats. Talk about immersion: You're literally forced to enter the strange, wild world created by Refraction Arts.

AC pick

And what a particularly peculiar world it is. With its empty High Life cans and mullet cuts, there's something decidedly Southern about it. But what with the kimonos, tea ceremonies, and martial arts, there's a dash of the Eastern in there, too. While the origins of *The Assumption*'s world are diverse, its creation is complete: The characters are so committed to their environment that there's nothing false about a kung fu exhibition or a man with a myriad of fake mustaches being in it. Part Southern rock opera, part *Hamlet*, and totally hilarious, last year's Austin Critics Table winner for outstanding comedy returns with all the delight and spectacle of its original run.

The Assumption calls itself "very, very loosely based on *Hamlet*." So what's rotten in the state of the tire yard by the swamp? Well, it could be a lot of things. It could be the paint-spattered pack of moronic cousins or whatever's festering under the beer-can statues or the fact that Clarence killed D. Ray's father by putting an alligator in his toilet and married his mother. "To fuck or to kill," that is the replacement to the melancholy prince's brooding contemplation. This may seem crude, but past the crazy paraphernalia of the tire yard is a carefully crafted story. Calling itself "loosely based on *Hamlet*" actually does *The Assumption* a disservice. By no means do you need to know *Hamlet* to appreciate this production. There's plenty to laugh at, look at, and be moved by without the Shakespearean allusions.

That said, it's great to have the highbrow references hidden beneath the surface. The scenes aren't exactly translated or precisely in order, but Bard buffs will find quite a few "Aha!" moments in the production, say, recognizing Clarence's doo-wop serenade as Claudius' repentance speech or Aunt Po-Po's spouting of Southern rock lyrics to her son as Polonius' advice. Old Hamlet's ghost is transformed into a giant bear; the play-within-a-play is converted into the wrestlers coming to town (with the greatest wrestling match I've seen this side of Vince McMahon and his 'roid rage crew); the pirates are made over into a Southern biker gang – the references to Shakespeare's rotten state are littered throughout *Assumption*'s tire yard.

The Assumption offers you so much to take in. At any given time, Mama may be primping at her make-up station or the cousins dancing or D. Ray practicing his kung fu. If only one thing is happening onstage, it's for a damn good reason. This holds true both visually – black-light David Carradine posters, tiki torches, beer-can statues – and aurally – loud live rock, banging noises, synchronized stomp rituals for funeral observations and celebrations. Refraction Arts has crammed so much into *The Assumption*, and yet its performance is incredibly tight. If they haven't received enough plaudits, co-directors and creators Sonnet Blanton and Julia M. Smith deserve even more. With such an amazing stage design, soundtrack, and committed performances, it's hard to single out any one artist for specific praise. This captivating, funny, and precise production is one of the best theatrical experiences – if not the numero uno theatrical experience – I've had in Austin.

– *Avimaan Syam*

Theatre

OPENING

MACBETH Holiday season not bloodied enough for you? The Velvet Rut Theatre Company, under the direction of Japhy Fernandes (who also plays the title role), provides a, we reckon, unique look at one of Shakespeare's darkest creations. *Thu.-Sat., Dec. 20-29; Fri.-Sat., Jan 4-12. All shows at 8pm. Velvet Rut, 1612 E. Seventh, 236-1092. Donations accepted.*

CLOSING

A CHRISTMAS CAROL Of course someone's doing the Dickens for this coming season, and here it's the Palace in Georgetown with Alan Menken's Broadwayed musical version. Scrooge in New York City? Catchy songs and lots of dance numbers? Yes, and who among us would suggest it's all a bunch of humbug? *Through Dec. 23. Fri.-Sat., 7:30pm; Sun., 2pm. Palace Theatre, 810 S. Austin Rd., Georgetown, 512/869-7469. $20 ($18, seniors; $8, students).* **www.thegeorgetownpalace.org**.

THOM PAIN (BASED ON NOTHING) Hyde Park Theatre's Ken Webster recently won the Austin Critics' Table award for Outstanding Lead Acting for his performance of this Will Eno monologue masterpiece. We don't know whether to congratulate Webster on his triumph or the ACT on their good judgment, but, yeah, we heartily concur and recommend this encore performance of the show to anyone who likes intimate and darkly comedic work well done. *Through Dec. 22. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. Hyde Park Theatre, 511 W. 43rd, 479-PLAY. $17 ($15, students, seniors, ACoT; pay what you can, Thursdays).* **www.hydeparktheatre.com**.

THE ULTIMATE CHRISTMAS MUSICAL: THE MUSICAL! This offering, which may just be some sort of musical, is presented by your kinetically irrepressible friends at Yellow Tape Construction Co., as Jonathon Morgan directs a stage-stretching cast in a story about hope, love, togetherness, and the undeniable, supremely fantastic Spirit of Christmas. Tongue, we reckon, firmly in cheek. Choreographed by Amanda Butterfield and scored by the Other Tim Doyle. *Through Dec. 22. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. $15-30.* **www.yellowtape.org**.

ROSENCRANTZ AND GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD Shakespeare's greatest tragedy (Ah, that would be *Hamlet*) was turned inside out by the brilliant Tom Stoppard for this wild existential ride, here a vehicle for production by those daring young thespians of City Theatre. *Through Dec. 23. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 5:30pm. City Theatre, 3823 Airport Ste. D. $15-20 ($12, students; $10, Thursdays).*

THE ASSUMPTION If you missed it the first time around (and especially if you've been fucking *hearing* about it, about how *incredibly awesome* it was, for months and months now, from almost everybody you know who knows anything about theatre), well, here's you a chance to finally see what the Refraction Arts people have perpetrated by way of a sort of white-trash-living, kung-fu-fighting, shit-kicking, cousin-kissing, live-music version of *Hamlet*, more or less. Julia M. Smith and Sonnet Blanton conceived and directed it – working off scripts from Rebecca Beegle, Ron Berry, Jeffery Mills, Chase Staggs, Cyndi Williams, and that same Blanton – and it's loaded with performers who could turn you inside out if they wanted to. If you miss it this time, hon, don't come cryin' to me. *Through Dec. 21. Thu., 8pm; Fri., 8 & 10:30pm. The Blue Theater, 916 Springdale, 927-1118.* **www.refractionarts.org**.

DON'T DRESS FOR DINNER Marc Camoletti's French farce of mistaken identities, illicit love affairs, and haute cuisine is here adapted English-wise by Robin Hawdon, with a fine cast (David Stahl! Ben Wolfe! Andrea Osborne! Others!) directed by Don Toner for your theatrical comedy pleasure. *Through Dec. 23. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 5pm. Austin Playhouse, 3601 S. Congress Bldg. C, 476-0084. $24-28 (half price for students).* **www.austinplayhouse.com**.

ONGOING

WHEN MORE PIGS FLY is a musical revue featuring more than 120 costumes in 90 minutes and starring some of Austin's favorite performers. *Through Jan. 12. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. Arts on Real Theatre, 2826 Real (behind Flatbed Press), 472-2788. $33 ($25, in advance).* **www.naughtyaustin.com**.

12 STEPS TO A MORE DYSFUNCTIONAL CHRISTMAS is Rob Nash's hilarious one-man multicharacter skewering of yuletide mania and a few of its especially hapless participants. Join the entire Smith family (as familiar as your own but perhaps a smidgen more fucked up) as they struggle through the year-end shenanigans. Recommended – definitely – to take the sugary edge off your holiday season. *Through Dec. 30. Thu.-Sun., 8pm. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. $10-30.* **www.vortexrep.org**.

THE SANTALAND DIARIES David Sedaris' ascerbic holiday treat returns to Zach Scott with **Martin Burke** bringing his sharp wit and timing to the role of Crumpet, the disgruntled Macy's elf. Also featuring the excellent **Meredith McCall** and pianist **Jason Connor**, this is the sort of comedy that'll turn any coal in your stocking into diamonds. Directed by Dave "What the hell, I'll go ahead and open *three* shows at once!" Steakley. *Through Jan. 6. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2:30pm. Zachary Scott Theatre Center, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541. $33-43 (discounts available for students, seniors, large groups).* **www.zachscott.com**.

ROCKIN' CHRISTMAS PARTY ZACH's annual, wintertime, Motown-inflected musical spectacular comes a-jingling and a-tinseling and a-sha-la-la-la-ing back to the stage, with the Beehive Girls and friends decked out in holiday finest and belting tunes fit to melt even the Grinch's permafrost heart. It's the Austin yuletide tradition that gets you dancing in the aisles, directed by Dave "Hardworkin'" Steakley. *Through Dec. 30. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2:30pm. Zachary Scott Theatre Center, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541. $38-45 (discounts available for students, seniors, large groups).* **www.zachscott.com**.

PLAID TIDINGS is Stuart Ross' holiday-themed sequel to the popular *Forever Plaid*, in which the male counterparts of Zach's Beehive Girls sing and dance their way through pop music standards in happy-footed, nostalgia-mining harmony. Tributes to the Rockettes, *The Ed Sullivan Show*, the Chipmunks, Harry Belafonte, and more are performed by the fantastic sweater-vested cast as Austin Haller tickles the yuletide ivories. Directed by Dave "Triple Threat" Steakley, with musical direction by Allen Robertson. *Through Dec. 30. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2:30pm. Zachary Scott Theatre Center, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541. $38-45 (discounts available for students, seniors, large groups).* **www.zachscott.com**.

DINNER THEATRE

REALLY BAD SANTA is the latest themed interactive murder-mystery fun from Gary Payne's Capital City Mystery Players. Enjoy plenty of pasta and parmagiano and suchlike fare as you help the comedic cast figure out who whacked nasty old St. Nick. *Thu.-Sat., Dec. 20-22, 7pm. Spaghetti Warehouse, 117 W. Fourth, 404-9123. $29.95.* **www.meatballs.com**.

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

The Austin Chronicle is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date. **The deadline for the Jan. 4 issue is Monday, Dec. 24**. Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork. Include SASE for return of materials.

Send submissions to the attention of the appropriate writer (see roster below). Mail to the *Chronicle*, PO Box 49066, Austin 78765, fax 458-6910, or e-mail:

Wayne Alan Brenner, theatre, comedy.
brenner@austinchronicle.com.

Robi Polgar, performance art, dance, classical.
dance-classical@austinchronicle.com.

Ric Williams, litera. **litera@austinchronicle.com**.

Benné Rockett, visual arts. **art@austinchronicle.com**.

Questions? Contact Wayne Alan Brenner, listings editor.
brenner@austinchronicle.com.

Envision a future without violence.
SafePlace needs your support.

24 HOUR HOTLINE: **512/267-SAFE**
927-9616 TTY
www.austin-safeplace.com
SafePlace exists to end rape, sexual assault and domestic violence.

Come weekly for farms, food, and music!
Austin Farmers' Market
at the Triangle
Wednesdays 3-7pm
www.austinfarmersmarket.org

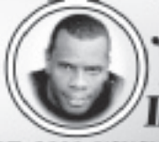
Chronique

CHRONICLE ON DESIGN
austinchronicle.com/chronique

CAP CITY COMEDY CLUB

bookin' & cookin' your holiday parties now! call cheryal at 467-2333

J.R.Brow
Dec. 11-15



Jimmie Roulette
Dec. 18-22

DEC.30& NYE!

467-2333 WWW.CAPCITYCOMEDY.COM 8120 RESEARCH BLVD.

Every year the holidays are very special for Majic 95.5. We embrace the holiday season by playing continuous Christmas music all the way through December 25th. In addition we will collect donations and supplies for area families in need. This year we are excited to partner with the Eastside Community Connection.
www.majic.com

Majic of Christmas

Majic 95.5

DirectBuy
The #1 way to buy direct for your home
Austin

eastside community connection

GIVE the gift of YOGA

YOGA YOGA OFFERS HOLIDAY GIFTS TO IMPROVE THE BODY, MIND *and* SPIRIT.

Gift Certificates and a wide range of yogic gifts are now available.

We also provide daily relief from holiday stress!

YOGA YOGA
www.yogayoga.com

Westgate:	4477 South Lamar	512.358.1200
South:	1700 South Lamar	512.326.3900
North:	2167 Anderson Lane	512.380.9800
Northwest:	12001 Burnet Road	512.490.1200

1967 40th 2007 KMFA 895
CLASSICAL 89.5

CALMING YOUR COMMUTE
FOR 40 YEARS
WWW.KMFA.ORG

A Cathedral Christmas

Central Christian Church, Dec. 15

The outside temperature near freezing, a lively crowd joined the members of the Texas Choral Consort in the pews of the cozy Central Christian Church amidst the red poinsettias and warm yellow lighting, an archetypal holiday concert setting. As interim Artistic Director Arlie Langager took to the podium, the singers rose from the audience, filling the aisles for an ethereal and delicate opening procession, the lovely 14th century chant "Puer Natus."

To follow such a promising opening was Mendelssohn's triumphant "Magnificat." But aside from the lively, confident solo quartet, the ensemble's performance was flat and uninspired. This tale of two choirs, one inspired and one disengaged, persisted throughout the performance.

The Consort's season is a mix of auditioned and non-auditioned performances, bringing people from different musical backgrounds into the concert setting. On the spectrum of Austin's arts ecology, TCC fills that important space between the professional ensemble and the grassroots community organization. This dynamic presents the unique opportunity – and challenge – of exploring an artistic program that not only inspires the varied performers but also presents an experience that is both genuine and cohesive.

AC pick

The concert's first half ended with Mozart's ode to Mary, "Regina Coeli." Accolades to Kirsten Watson, whose solo soprano soared through the piece with a sweet, pitch-perfect delivery that was downright angelic. The ensemble as a whole, however, was again restrained and dynamically stagnant. Given the lush accompaniment of the Consort's orchestra – most especially a noble brass section – the chorus' lackluster delivery called into question whether the group was given overly ambitious material.

This notion was dispelled entirely, though, in the opening notes of the second act. The program left the traditional canon to tackle Daniel Pinkham's 1957 "Christmas Cantata." A bold, visceral work with tricky rhythms and plainsong sonorities, this was heavyweight Christmas fare. The chorus performed the opening movement, which bears resemblance to the grandeur of Carl Orff, with a vigor that was entirely lacking in the first half of the concert. From the volume and confidence of the sound to the clarity of the sectional work, this was a completely different ensemble. For the drone-based "O Magnum Mysterium," the high voices achieved an otherworldly beauty. In the final "Gloria," Pinkham breaks the chorus into sections for jaunty, renaissance-style dances. The intense rhythmic and harmonic material was handled with zeal by the choir. This was a sophisticated performance in every way, and it was clear that the singers were enjoying themselves immensely.

The concert continued with an odd, feverishly organ-heavy setting of "The First Noel" and a collection of other well-known carols, as well as John Rutter's brand-new "Winchester Te Deum." The addition of another modern work to the program produced the same result as with the Pinkham: a steady, engaging performance.

The concert ended as it began, with the chorus back in the aisles for "Silent Night." All in all, the two modern performances were thrilling and the carols delightful. Had I only heard the first act, though, I would have been left with the false notion that the ensemble wasn't up to the level of performance demanded by the work chosen.

I couldn't help but wonder if the disconnect was with the choices themselves. Perhaps the essence of an ensemble that sets out to bring performers of different levels together rests on the degree to which the music connects with those performing. Clearly, the Texas Choral Consort can achieve moving, technically sound results. What wasn't certain, at least during parts of this program, was if it really wanted to.

– *Michael Kellerman*

Comedy

IN THE CLUBS

CAP CITY COMEDY CLUB 8120 Research #100, 467-2333. **www.capcitycomedy.com**.

Matt Bearden We once were blind, but now – thanks to Asaf Ronen and his *Sickest Fucking Stories You've Ever Heard* – we see. We see, specifically, that Bearden may be one of the funniest coves to ever inhabit this Lone Star State, and so we recommend – *and* ***Zarkos demands*** – that you catch his act, especially as it's fortified with various others of Austin's top comics. *Dec. 26-29. Wed.-Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm. $5.50-44.95.*

Jimmie Roulette The perennial runner-up in the Funniest Person in Austin contest, yes, and the Numbah One Winnah of the whole Purina Pet Comedy thing, Roulette's got a casino-load of funny to unleash before Santa comes busting down your solar vent tunnel. **Bryan Guttman** opens. *Dec. 20-22. Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm. $5.50-44.95.*

Open Mic Comedy Seasoned pros and up-and-comers knock themselves out to benefit the Austin Children's Shelter. *Sundays, 8pm. $2 (free, college students).*

COLDTOWNE THEATER 4803 Airport. **www.coldtowne.com**.

Now This Is Improv! Features some of Austin's best stand-up and (especially) improv: **Parallelogramophonograph**, the cutest improvisers in town, go all Gallic hilarity with a French farce like some retro Moliére-conditioner. *Thursdays, 8pm*. **Thursday Night Awesome** returns, with **Dave Buckman** and **Chris Trew** riding herd over a wild corral of entertainment. *Thursdays, 10pm*. **UpTowne** is ColdTowne's foray into the scripted world of sketch comedy, searing like old-school *SNL* when they're really cookin'. *Fridays, 8pm*. ***That Other Paper*** **presents Punchline**. The popular stand-up showcase continues, fracturing funny bones every weekend. *Fridays, 10pm*. **Stool Pigeon** features a mystery guest in a sort of modified Armando, thus jump-starting the shenanigans that ensue. *Saturdays, 8pm*. **ColdTowne** The mighty house troupe rocks your night with fierce improv as only they can create it, now with **Look Cookie**. *Saturdays, 10pm*. **Level Six** is where ColdTowne and Look Cookie go all freestyle and experimental with their improv buddies as the witching hour approacheth. *Saturdays, 11:30pm*.

ESTHER'S POOL 525 E. Sixth, 320-0553. **www.esthersfollies.com**.

Banana Puddin' Time Tom Booker, comedy impresario from L.A., has moved to Austin and is running this new show at Esther's Pool: a mixture of comedic sketches, improv, stand-up comedy, and silly songs. Austin's most entertaining talents are promised, and you'll get free banana pudding with each paid admission. *Thursdays, 9:30pm. $9.95.*

Esther's Follies: World Gone Wild The most popular troupe in town returns with their riotous musical send-ups of local and national politics and cultural phenomena, making already hot topics burn with a bright comic intensity, with the incredible and – *ai! ai! ai!* – spicy illusions of master magician **Ray Anderson**. Thrills! Chills! Ripped-from-the-headlines events turned into comedy gold! *Reservations highly recommended. Thu.-Fri, 8pm; Sat., 8 & 10pm. $20 (discounts available Thursdays & Fridays for seniors, students, military). Additional $5 for special reserved seats.*

THE HIDEOUT THEATRE 617 Congress, 443-3688. **www.hideouttheatre.com**.

You want some laughs with that? Yes, Austin happily boasts two epicenters of great improv, and this – the *original*, y'might say – is one of them. It's totally Downtown, too, for your sense of humor-and-awe's convenience:

Friday: It's Threefer Madness time, with **Look Cookie**, **Perfect Season**, and **Costa Cider**. *8pm. $10*. Then you've got a Double Barrel waiting for you, featuring the **The Frank Mills** and **Parallelogramophonograph**. *10pm. $10*.

Saturday: It's **Office Party** time, as the Heroes of Comedy improv themselves a madcap celebration of cubicle hell among the paperclips and memo pads and staplers and – hey, *who took my stapler? 8pm. $10*. **Maestro** is a fierce, multipartite battle for supremacy among improvisers, scored by *you*, the audience. *Highly recommended. 10pm. $10*.

Matt Bearden brings his inimitable wit and insight to the Cap City stage as soon as Christmas has left the building.

VELVEETA ROOM 521 E. Sixth, 469-9116. **www.thevelveetaroom.com**.

Open Mic Night, God Help Us All These are your would-be comedic neighbors, three minutes at a time: Love them, fear them. This week's host: **Justin West**. *Thursdays, 10pm*.

Lisa deLarios Still pipin' hot from her gig at Aspen earlier this year, still sizzling from her spot on Comedy Central's *Live at Gotham*, deLarios wields her comedy chops like a shiny Ginsu of humor to julienne even the toughest food for thought. But that's not all! You also get **John Rabon** and **Justin West** for the same low, low price! *Fri.-Sat., Dec. 21-22, 9:30 & 11:30pm. $5.*

BUT WAIT – THERE'S MORE!

EGO'STRIP All hail the new improv venue in town, featuring a supergroup handpicked by the Frank Mills' own **Dave Buckman**. They'll amaze you with longform work, then lead the audience in improv games, right there in one of the city's favorite watering holes. Huzzah! *Wednesdays, 9-10:30pm. Ego's, 510 S. Congress, 474-7091. $5.*

THE DEATH OF A VARIETY SHOW is an exquisite corpse of a production: improv, theatre, music, and poetry – with each piece inspired by the piece that came before it – now with scenes written by the President of the Czech Republic. Presented by the Polite Society's Michael Ferstenfeld and his talented pallies. *Thu., Dec. 20, 9:10pm; Sat., Dec. 29, 8pm. The Hideout Theatre, 617 Congress, 443-3688. $7-70.* **www.hideouttheatre.com**.

Dance

BALLET AUSTIN: THE NUTCRACKER Ballet Austin brings its 45th production of this seasonal classic to the grand old dame of Austin theatres, this time with added snow! Stephen Mills' variation on the original includes the fun and the fantastic, and has pleased audiences for years. *Through Dec. 23. 7:30pm: Dec. 20-22. 2:30pm: Dec. 22-23. Paramount Theatre, 713 Congress, 866/4-GETTIX. $17.50-65.* **www.austintheatrealliance.org**.

1,001 NIGHTS

LUCILA DANCE PRODUCTIONS: CHRISTMAS DANCE AND MUSIC GATHERING Lucila's boutique opens for holiday shopping, while "festivities" entertain you and the kiddies. Refreshments available. *Sat., Dec. 22, 7pm. Lucila Dance Studio, 1700 S. Lamar. 416-8800. Free.* **www.luciladance.com**.

ARABIC CHRISTMAS BAZAAR Celebrate Christmas, Arabic style, courtesy of Zein's Dance Studio and WMD Productions. The seventh annual bazaar features Arabic music, discount belly-dance lessons, and loads of treasures from Middle Eastern markets. Shows featuring members of Bint El Balad Ensemble and visiting dancers take place twice daily. *Through Dec. 23. Sundays, 11am-6pm (performances 2 & 4pm). Zein's Dance Studio, 5013 Duval St., 533-9227. Free admission.* **www.wmdproductions.com**.

TWO LEFT FEET

ACC DANCE DEPARTMENT: SPRING CLASSES Study dance with some of Austin's finest choreographers and dancers offering challenging and affordable classes in modern, improvisation, and choreography, as well as ballet, jazz, anatomy for dancers, and dance history. Classes start Jan. 14. Registration deadline: *Jan. 9. 223-3384.* **www.austincc.edu/dance**.

BELLY-DANCE CLASSES Twyla of Twyla & the Twilight Star Ensemble offers a variety of belly-dance classes out in Leander. *Class times vary, Mon.-Wed., 7:30-9:30pm; Fri., by appt. 971-0188.* **www.twylabellydance.com**.

BELLY-DANCE CLASSES Learn traditional and classical Egyptian techniques in this fun and fast-paced class. Contact Drakon for details. *512/750-7037. $13 per class; $66 for six classes.* **www.desertpassion.com**.

AUSTIN BALLROOM DANCERS ABD sponsors ballroom dancing with DJ-ed music weekly, year-round. *Saturdays, 8-11pm; minilesson, 7:30pm. Austin Recreation Center, 1301 Shoal Creek Blvd., 989-3939.* **www.austinballroomdancers.org**.

CONTACT IMPROVISATION DANCE JAMS Participants move in and out of contact with one or more people through a common center of gravity. All are welcome. *Tuesdays, 8-10pm; Sundays, 4:30-6pm. Austin Yoga School, 1122-C S. Lamar. $5.*

SCOTTISH BALLROOM DANCING Learn the ballroom dances of Scotland, lads and lassies: lively jigs and reels and elegant strathspeys; no partner needed but couples welcome. *Thursdays, 7-8:30pm. Quicksilver Dance Center, 8711 Burnet Rd. Ste. H-100. 327-2869. First class free.*

ESTUDIO FLAMENCO Flamenco dance classes for beginners and intermediates. Handy central location to boot. Call for times; private lessons available. *2801 W 45th. 382-1366. $10 per class.* **www.estudioflamenco.com**.

MODERN DANCE CLASSES Ellen Bartel of Spank Dance Company leads a series of classes in modern dance (all levels). *Times and prices vary, see the Tapestry website for details. Tapestry Dance Company studios, 2302 Western Trails.* **www.tapestry.org**.

SOLID CHROME DANCERS Dance in a real honky tonk! Learn the Texas two-step and Western swing. Singles and couples welcome to these ongoing classes. *Thursdays, 8pm. Broken Spoke, 3201 S. Lamar, 417-7383. $8.* **www.myspace.com/solidchromedancers**.

AUSTIN SCANDINAVIAN DANCING Turning and improvised couple dancing for beginning to advanced dancers. No partners needed; wear slick-soled shoes. *Thursdays 7:30-9:45pm. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover, 454-0598. $3.* **www.austinscandi.org**.

AUSTIN BARN DANCERS: CONTRA DANCE With live music. *Wednesdays, 7:30pm. Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st, 453-4225. $3.* **www.ci.austin.tx.us**.

NIA CLASSES The Nia Technique is a high-powered energizing workout inspired by dance, martial arts, and healing arts. Build strength, gain flexibility, find health, and have fun! The first class is free. *Mon. & Fri., 9:30-10:30am; Mon. & Thu., 6-7pm; Sat., 10:30am. Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st, 922-1581. $10 each class, discounts available.* **www.ci.austin.tx.us**.

AUSTIN INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS Start out a fun evening learning a variety of couples and line dances from around the world before giving it a whirl during the open dance session. Beginners and experienced dancers welcome. No partner required. *Saturdays, 7:30pm (lessons); open dance 8:15-11pm. Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st, 481-9362. $5.* **www.aifd.cc**.

AUSTIN GAY/LESBIAN SALSA GROUP Welcome this free group that invites gays/lesbians who want to learn (or already know) how to salsa to gather and dance. *Wednesdays. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. Free.* **www.groups.yahoo.com/group/austingaysalsa**.

FOUR ON THE FLOOR: CLASSES Ongoing classes for various levels of expertise in swing and Lindy Hop culminate in a weekly dance. New classes usually start the first Tuesday of the new month. *Tuesdays, 7pm (classes), 9:30pm (open dance). Texas Federation of Women's Clubs Ballroom, 2312 San Gabriel, 453-3889. Prices vary.* **www.fouronthefloor.com**.

AUSTIN SWING SYNDICATE A couple hundred swingers hit the dance floor once a week for DJ-spun sounds of past blasts. A beginners' lesson starts the evening. *Thursdays, 8pm-12mid. Texas Federation of Women's Clubs Ballroom, 2312 San Gabriel, 476-5845. $4 ($2, members).* **www.austinswingsyndicate.org**.

Classical Music

OPENING

CAROLING AT NOON: THE SOLOISTS OF ST. DAVID'S Take a lunchtime pause from the season's bustle with these presentations of music and Christmas caroling, followed by an optional lunch. Free parking in church garage at Eighth and Trinity. *Thu., Dec. 20, 12:05pm (lunch served at 12:30pm). St. David's Episcopal Church, 304 E. Seventh, 472-1196. Free ($7, lunch).* **www.stdave.org**.

MUSICA ECCLESIAE: CELTIC CHRISTMAS AT THE CATHEDRAL This series of Downtown performances brings some of the area's best classical music to St. Mary's soaring sanctuary. This month features one of the hottest tickets in town during the holiday season: The Celtic Christmas is sold out every year. Featured performers include Gregory Grene and Chris Buckley. *Thu.-Fri., Dec. 20-21, 8pm. Cathedral of St. Mary, 203 E. 10th, 472-4540. $19.* **www.celticcenter.org**.

AUSTIN GIRLS' CHOIR: CHRISTMAS WITH ALL THE TRIMMINGS The girls' senior ensemble presents a holiday choral treat featuring Britten's "A Ceremony of Carols," with harp, works for double choir, and delightful carol settings. *Fri., Dec., 21, 8pm. Austin Theological Presbyterian Seminary Chapel, 100 E. 27th. 453-0884. $10 suggested donation.* **www.austin.girlschoir.com**.

Visual Arts

EVENTS

FLAMING-O STUDIO AND RANCH PARTY A diverse array of stunning pottery by Stefanie Distefano and gazeworthy photography by David Jewell are the highlights of this holiday shindig, which offers side-jaunts to the studios of painter David Elliott. *Sat., Dec. 22, 11am-5pm. 402 El Paso, 912-1211.* **www.flamingoranch.com**.

ARMADILLO CHRISTMAS BAZAAR Art and music mingle in this celebration of Austin's unique culture as art collectors, gift givers, and music lovers shop and bop amid displays that range from the sophisticated to the funky. *Dec. 14-24. Mon.-Fri., 11am-11pm; Sat.-Sun., noon-6pm. 500 E. Cesar Chavez, 476-5461.* **www.austinconventioncenter.com**.

BLUE GENIE HOLIDAY ART BAZAAR It's the seventh annual iteration of this culturally empowered consumer phenomenon, chockablock with more original objects and paintings than Mrs. Claus can shake a fishnet stocking at. *Through Dec. 24. Sun.-Thu., 10am-6pm; Fri.-Sat., 10am-12mid. 6406 N. I-35 #3100, 371-1711.* **www.bluegenieart.com/art_bazaar_2007.html**.

OPENING

BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART Jorge Macchi: The Anatomy of Melancholy. Exhibition: *Dec. 15-March 16*. **Mike's World: Michael Smith & Joshua White (and other collaborators)**. Exhibition: *Through Dec. 30*. **WorkSpace: Paul Ramirez Jonas**. Exhibition: *Through Feb. 3*. **Jacques Callot**. Exhibition: *Through April 27*. **Antonio Berni Works on Paper & Pre-Colombian Legacy in Modern and Contemporary Works on Paper**. Exhibition: *Through Jan. 1. MLK & Congress, 471-7324.* **www.blantonmuseum.org**.

ARTHOUSE @ THE JONES CENTER Florian Slotawa: one after the other. Exhibition: *Through Jan. 13*. **The Sundown Schoolhouse for Inner Austin Agriculture**. Exhibition: *Jan. 25-March 16*. Workshop: *Sat., Jan. 26, 3pm. 700 Congress, 453-5312.* **www.arthousetexas.org**.

CLOSING

LA PEÑA: LULA MARCONDES Vibrant narrative graphics to delight your eyes and sense of story. *Through Dec. 23. 227 Congress, 477-6007.*

ARTSPOKEN GALLERY: 12 BUY Now in its third year, this juried show features works by more than 30 Austin artists. The title of the exhibit plays on the requirement that all pieces measure 12 inches by 12 inches and the affordability of the smaller size. *Through Dec. 22. 1507 W. Koenig, 589-2905.* **www.artspoken.com**.

TEXAS FOLKLIFE – LA LABOR: THE PAINTINGS OF ROEL FLORES Flores, the first-generation American son of Mexican immigrants, was 15 when he became a full-time migrant worker and began playing bajo-sexto with a conjunto band on weekends. He fills his acrylic paintings with images of

Excellent party at Flaming-O Studio and Ranch this Saturday, featuring colorful mosaics and fine photography among the festivities

fields, sunsets, instruments, and other aspects of his life as a Tejano in South Texas. *Through Dec. 21. 1317 S. Congress.* **www.texasfolklife.org**.

CRL: COLLABORATION FROM CONCEPTION explores the process of artists combining efforts to create art with a collective idea or common interest in mind. This is especially exciting because the artists participating here are Sodalitas (Shea Little, Joseph Phillips, and Jana Swec), Stephanie Bonham, Art Silva, Katalin Hausel, Jaclyn Pryor, and Leanne Zacharias. *Through Dec. 22. 2832 E. MLK, 322-2099.*

ONGOING

MASS GALLERY: HYPERSPECTIVE is an optically and physically immersive installation that "places viewers in a world somewhere between two and three dimensions." Call for appt. *Through Jan. 5. 916 Springdale, 627-4133.* **www.massgallery.org**.

EYE CONTACT ART showcases the work of Joshua Garcia and others. *12400 Amherst #102, 825-8577.* **www.eyecontactart.com**.

GALLERY POLLOCK: BILL D. FRANCIS The UT professor emeritus presents his finest Prismacolor works. *2620-C S. Lamar, 804-2667.* **www.gallerypollock.com**.

AUSTIN GALLERIES: 20TH CENTURY MASTERS Original lithographs, etchings, intaglios, and screen prints by Marc Chagall, Salvador Dalí, Pablo Picasso, and more. *1219 W. Sixth*.

YOUNG LATINO ARTISTS: EMBRACING CHAOS *Through Feb. 23. Mexican American Cultural Center, 600 River, 478-6222.* **www.ci.austin.tx.us**.

CORONADO STUDIOS The Serie Project, a nonprofit Latino arts organization hosted by Coronado Studios, produces, promotes, and exhibits serigraph prints created by diverse artists. *6601 Felix, 385-3591.* **www.serieproject.org**.

LOTUS GALLERY: FIGURATIVELY SPEAKING New work by Scott Graham. *Through Dec. 29. 1211 W. Sixth, 474-1700.* **www.lotusasianart.com**.

HI ART: DIS FUNCTIONAL Art with a purpose or utility beyond traditional art, that can be used, worn, or employed in some fashion – including a wooden television, handbags, lighting, and more. *Through Jan. 10. 111 E. Hopkins, San Marcos, 512/392-7278.* **www.hiarttexas.com**.

AMOA: ROY LICHTENSTEIN PRINTS Why, it's as if one has died and gone to Ben-Day-dot heaven, as the Austin Museum of Art presents this retrospective of work by the master of comic-book appropriation. Whither now, O Fin Fang Foom? *Through Feb. 3. 823 Congress, 495-9224.* **www.amoa.org**.

ART ALLIANCE AUSTIN + PUMP PROJECT In its second show, Art Alliance Austin has teamed up with Pump Project Art Complex to display the works of local artists at this new location. *315 Congress #100, 610-4211.* **www.artallianceaustin.org**.

ARTAMICI FINE ART GALLERY is featuring work by artists from Argentina, Mexico, Chile, and Peru; paintings by Augustina Rodriguez, Oscar Riquelme, and Pablo Taboada; drawings by Gilberto Ramirez; and metal sculpture by Augusto Brocca. *78 San Marcos, 457-0171.* **www.pablotaboadastudio.com**.

ARTHOUSE: ONE AFTER THE OTHER Florian Slotawa is a Berlin-based conceptual artist who utilizes everyday items and spaces to create temporary sculptural assemblages and installations. *Through Jan. 13. 700 Congress, 453-5312.* **www.arthousetexas.org**.

AUSTIN ART GLASS This glassblowing studio and gallery offers functional and decorative glass art, as well as glassblowing classes and free demonstrations. *1608 S. Congress, 916-4527.* **www.austinartglass.com**.

AVENUE GALLERY: THE MANY FACES OF DUNCAN features photographs of the popular Scottish Fold cat belonging to photographer Kip Holm. *1510½ S. Congress, 442-3600.* **www.avenuegallerysoco.com**.

BLUE MOON GLASSWORKS Unique handmade glass art and jewelry. *5241 N. Lamar, 380-0770.* **www.austinbluemoon.com**.

STATE HISTORY MUSEUM: IN CITIZEN'S GARB features an exhibition on "Southern Plains Native Americans, 1889-1891." *Through Jan. 6. 1800 Congress, 936-8746.* **www.thestoryoftexas.com**.

THE CATHEDRAL OF JUNK is approximately 60 tons of junk wired together over 15 years to form intricate towers and rooms in the back yard of a, we guess you might say, average South Austin home. Hours: *Sundays, 11am-2pm, or by appt. 4422 Lareina, 299-7413.* **www.keepaustinweird.com**.

D BERMAN GALLERY: HILLEVI BAAR AND STEVE WIMAN Baar's expertly designed pencil renderings on Mylar and Wiman's stunning arrangements of found objects are lovely and sufficient to drive the cold winter away. *Through Jan. 12. 1701 Guadalupe, 477-8877.* **www.dbermangallery.com**.

DAVIS GALLERY: DOUBLE VISION New work by Austin painters David Ohlerking and Chris Chappell. Many of the works are each painter's unique view of the same landscape scenes. Recommended. *Through Jan. 5. 837 W. 12th, 477-4929.*

DIAZ GALLERY: MIGRATIONS & INTEGRATIONS Scenes with fabric by Stephanie Friedman and mixed-media photography by Heather Harris. *Through Jan. 13. 3507 S. First, 444-0013.* **www.diazgallery.com**.

DIBONA STUDIO Oil paintings and "sculptural tattoos" by Joyce DiBona. *404 W. Milton, 851-2646.*

DOUGHERTY ART CENTER: WOMEN PRINTMAKERS OF AUSTIN 12th annual exhibition of multiple originals! *Through Jan. 7. 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 397-1468.* **www.womenprintmakers.com**.

ELSE MADSEN GALLERY: GREECE ON FIRE New work by the Painterly Handsomes (Troy Allen, Chris Holloway, Cody Scrogum, and Fred Tabares). *Through Jan. 6. 411 Brazos #99.* **www.elsemadsen.com**.

FRANCOIS PHOTOGRAPHY GALLERY *309-B Bowie, 320-0072.*

GALLERY LOMBARDI: XMAS EXPO Local artists exhibit their unique and funny wares and fine art. Recommended for excellent shopping. *Through Jan. 12. 602 W. Seventh Ste. A, 481-1088.* **www.gallerylombardi.com**.

BROCCA GALLERY *1103 E. Sixth.* **www.broccagallery.com**.

LORA REYNOLDS GALLERY: ROY MCMAKIN "A Breadbox and a Mug, Each Depicted in Sculpture and Photography." Deceptively simple, simply gorgeous, well worth seeing. *Through Jan. 12. 300 West #1318, 215-4965.* **www.lorareynolds.com**.

MEXIC-ARTE MUSEUM: FROM REVOLUTION TO RENAISSANCE Following the 1910 revolution, Mexico witnessed an explosion of creativity, exemplified in this show curated by James Oles and featuring the important modern Mexican art collection of Lance and Erika Aaron: works by master artists David Alfaro Siqueiros, Rufino Tamayo, Maria Izquerido, and Olga Costa. *Through Dec. 31. 419 Congress, 480-9373.* **www.mexic-artemuseum.org**.

MITCHIE'S FINE BLACK ART has an eclectic selection of African and African-American artwork and craft items on display. *6406 N. I-35 #2800, 323-6901.* **www.mitchie.com**.

THE MUSEUM OF NATURAL AND ARTIFICIAL EPHEMERATA: GHOSTS Take a curator-led tour of "The Orbs of Ghost Road," Pepper's Ghost diorama, ectoplasm from the M. Ravi archives, ghost photos, and other objects on loan from the Austin community. *Call for appt. 1808 Singleton, 320-0566.* **www.mnae.org/collection/ghosts.php**.

BOLM STUDIOS: ANDY ST. MARTIN St. Martin ends a busy year of exhibits with new paintings and a large suite of expressive pencil drawings, a perfectly proportioned installation, and the Dog Room: three paintings in homage to certain dogs who shall remain nameless. *Through Jan. 7. 5305 Bolm #10, 385-1670.*

SVT GALLERY: 11.07 WORKS In collaboration with their audiences, Peter Tucker and Leona Scull-Hons will stimulate a set of experiences, often at unplanned times with unplanned outcomes. *Through Jan. 5. 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886.* **www.salvagevanguard.org**.

SHORELINES GALLERY: SUE KEMP Watercolors from nature. *221 W. Second, 322-9961.* **www.shorelinesgalleryaustin.com**.

WALLY WORKMAN GALLERY: ALICE IN WONDERLAND New works from 45 artists, inspired by Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*. *Through Jan. 6. 1202-B W. Sixth, 472-7428.* **www.wallyworkmangallery.com**.

WOMEN & THEIR WORK: PATTERN PATTERN PATTERN Lisa Choinacky and Katherine McQueen have curated an excellent group show for the holiday season. Featured artists include Amanda Barr, Rosemarie Fiore, Germaine Keller, Laura Paulini, Lisa Soloman, Jana Swec, and Shea Little. *Through Jan. 5. 1710 Lavaca, 477-1064.* **www.womenandtheirwork.org**.

SPACES

DECOLA & EUSEBI GALLERY Stained and leaded glass and mosaics. *701 Tillery Ste. A-11, 389-2266.* **www.decola-eusebi.com**.

FLIPNOTICS: THE VISUAL WOLFY Todd V. Wolfson, photog extraordinaire, presents 13 new works of "musicians, artists, people: beyond candid." *Flipnotics @ the Triangle, 4600 Guadalupe, 380-0097.* **www.flipnotics.com**.

GUTTERKITTY STUDIOS: THE AUSTIN FIGURATIVE PROJECT Paintings by some of Austin's best. *102 Krebs.* **ohlerkingpaintings@yahoo.com**.

ARTWORKS GALLERY Tropical butterflies displayed in plexiboxes designed by G.W. Clark. *1214 W. Sixth, 472-1550.*

CENTRAL MARKET: MARIA LYLE Paintings are featured through *Dec. 31. 4001 N. Lamar, 206-1000.* **www.centralmarket.com**.

CYPRESS GRILL The Creative Arts Society of Austin brings this neighborhood restaurant alive with year-round exhibitions. *4404 W. William Cannon Ste. L, 358-7474.* **www.creativeartssociety.org**.

THE GREEN MUSE The works of J. Lowry Doile. *519 W. Oltorf, 912-7789.*

CORNERS OF THE WORLD: INTERNATIONAL CENTER Paintings by Czech Republic-born Marcela Kourkova. *Through Jan. 1. 201 E. Second.* **cotwart@gmail.com**.

THE GREEN WALL GALLERY: JERRY'S ARTARAMA Sculptures by Polish-born artist Czeslaw Sornat. **Junk Mail** works are environmentally friendly! Exhibition: *Through Dec. 31.*

LAMBERTS: JOAN MCGUIRE New abstract works on paper. *401 W. Second, 494-1500.* **www.lambertsaustin.com**.

LOVEJOYS: BART FARAR This is an exhibition of new work by *Bart Farar*, and highly recommended. Come see what brilliance the man's rendered in watercolor and ink on wood and other surfaces. *604 Neches, 477-1268.*

QUATTRO GALLERY: EYE OF THE NEEDLE This annual exhibition and sale is one of the most intriguing shows in the Austin. *Through Jan. 15. 12971 Pond Springs Rd., 219-3178.* **www.quattrogallery.com**.

ROADHOUSE RELICS Vintage neon, carnival banners, and other tributes to U.S. popular culture, by Todd Sanders. *1720 S. First, 442-6366.* **www.roadhouserelics.com**.

SHORELINE GRILL Mixed-media constructions by Joseph Hammer and Randall Reid, with sculpture by George McFarland. *Through Jan. 5. 98 San Jacinto, 477-3300.* **www.shorelinegrill.com**.

CREATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

IDEA GALLERY: WOMEN IN THE STUDIOS Space for women artists will be available at the Tillery Street studio on the first of December. The high energy of the BreadFactory tenants and the command of materials by the women in the studios at IDEA set the tone for an explosion in your work. Contact Deanna Miesche: *699-4811. 921-7744.*

ATELIER 3-D: SEEKING PRESENTERS The studio needs working sculptors who are willing to present their art to a small, highly interested group of local sculptors and artists. Presentations: *Thursdays, 2-4pm. 701 Tillery, 385-1115.* **www.atelier3-d.com**.

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES CALL FOR WORKS National call for public arts projects for the Mexican American Cultural Center with a budget

set for $200,000, including design fees, fabrication, installation, engineer-sealed drawings, insurance requirements, and travel. Review complete instructions and application for the RFQ at **www.cityofaustin.org/aipp**. Deadline: *Fri., Jan. 4. 301 W. Second, 974-9314.* **www.cityofaustin.org/aipp**.

AUSTIN FIGURATIVE GALLERY: SELF PORTRAIT Get your work onto a 20-inch-by-16-inch vertical unframed canvas, and you're in the exhibition. Deadline: *Feb. 29. 301 Chicon Unit F, 296-6624.* **www.austinfigurativegallery.com**.

HEARTS FOR TOMA MI CORAZON XVI ARE AVAILABLE NOW! Every year La Peña gives out wooden hearts to school children, artists, dignitaries, celebrities, and anybody who would like one. They're free to decorate them however they wish and, once they are returned, the hearts are sold in a silent auction. The proceeds go to support La Peña's artistic and educational programming. Deadline: *Sun., Jan. 20. 227 Congress, 477-6007.*

UMLAUF SCULPTURE GARDEN: KIDS' WINTER WORKSHOPS Sculptor to Be for ages 7-11. *Wed.-Fri., Jan. 2-4, 9am-noon. 605 Robert E. Lee, 445-5582. $30 ($80, for all three days).* **www.umlaufsculpture.org**.

Litera

READINGS, SIGNINGS, AND PERFORMANCES

KAREN KREPS visits Forbidden Fruit to sign her *Intimacies: Secrets of Love, Sex & Romance*. The store is full of adult toys that she'll have fun talking about and that you can get for your last-minute holiday shopping. Refreshments served. *Fri., Dec. 21, 6-8pm. Forbidden Fruit, 108 E. North Loop, 453-8090.* **www.forbiddenfruit.com**.

TEXAS NAFAS presents *Angels Knocking at the Tavern Door* (part two) with Robert Bly and Coleman Barks. Highly recommended, even if you saw the live performance. *Saturdays on Channel 16, ACTV.*

WRITING/BOOK GROUPS

PLAN B POETRY Austin formalist-leaning poet seeks to organize a workshop with a small (five to 10) and stable membership, to begin meeting in January. Dana Gioia's term "postmodern classicism" captures the spirit for which she aims. Serious poets with a nonexclusive commitment to form, especially those on the non- or recovering-MFA track, are invited to send inquiries to Rebecca via e-mail at: **obliquus@aol.com**.

SHAKES ALOUD! is a fun exploration of the Bard. People of all ages are welcome to this ongoing weekly reading group offered by Austin Shakespeare and moderated by Melinda Hall. *Sundays, 5-7pm. ACoT Headquarters, 701 Tillery. $5 each night.* **www.austinshakespeare.org**.

LAW OF ATTRACTION GROUP discusses the principals in *The Law of Attraction* by Esther and Jerry Hicks, and other such books. *Saturdays, 9am. Barnes & Noble Westlake, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 328-3652.*

AUSTIN WRITER'S BLOCK A mutually supportive writing group. Also: writing exercises. *Tuesdays, 4:30-6:30pm. La Madeleine, 3418 N. Lamar, 653-7872.* **www.austinwritersblock.com**.

SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

WHAT'S NEXT? Brainstorming Sessions for Future Workshops. This past year's topic was Telling the Truth: Discovering Who You Are and How to Tell Your Stories. *Thu., Dec. 20, 7-8:30pm. Hampton Library, 5125 Convict Hill, 892-6680.* **www.cityofaustin.org/library**.

OPEN MICS

WEIRD WORD is a round robin for poets and musicians. No sign-up sheet, no censors, no features. All poetry styles welcome. Currently BYOB for those so inclined. Hosted by the WarriorPoet. Note new day. *Mondays, 7-10pm. Cafe Caffeine, 909 W. Mary, 447-9473.* **www.southaustinstudios.com**.

GENUINE JOE Make some noise, or just sit and enjoy the enchanting air of North Austin. All acts welcome, but no cover songs. *Thursdays, 7:30-10pm. Genuine Joe Coffeehouse, 2001 W. Anderson, 220-1576.* **www.genuinejoe.com**.

HIDEOUT MIC is still an Open Universe event with your newest host, Thom the World Poet. *Mondays, 7-10pm. The Hideout Theatre, 617 Congress, 476-0473. $2 (or canned food for Poets Pantry).* **www.hideouttheatre.com**.

CAFE LIBRO, a bimonthy open-mic series, features M. Roberto Orduña (or Chibbi to his close friends). Chibbi is a performer, poet, make-up artist, writer, photographer, digital artist, brother, son, and friend. Most recently, he performed in the production *Ashes, Ashes*, hailed by Austin critics as innovative and original, and appeared in an independent movie called *Last Call for Tacos*. Open mic follows the featured artist. Hosted by Carole Metellus. *Fri., Dec. 21, 7pm. Resistencia Bookstore, 1801-A S. First, 416-8885.* **www.resistenciabooks.com**.

THE POETRY KARAOKE ORCHESTRA backs your poetry on the porch, with hosts Ivanho and Chris the Future. Bring canned foods for the Poets Pantry. *Tuesdays, 8-10pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637.* **www.rutamaya.net**.

RUTA MAYA POETRY is one of the longest-running open mics in Austin. Hosted by David Bates and Mark Maslow. Donations accepted for Poets Pantry. *Tuesdays, 6-9pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637.* **www.freespeechart.com**.

THE AUSTIN POETRY SLAM Mike Henry and a rotating crew of slam ninjas captain the crew that has all the best of stand-up, po-mo theatre, rock & roll, and phone sex rolled into one cosmic-heat blast of an evening. Open sign-up, 12 poets per week. $100 cash prizes. Featured poets kick it on, and then the tangles get electric. Note new venue! *Wednesdays, 8pm. Scoot Inn and Bier Garten, 1308 E. Fourth, 478-6200.* **www.nps2007.com**.

UNCENSORED OPEN MIC is hosted by Ed of Poetry Karaoke. All ages welcomed. Musicians, artists, dancers, all open living and free! *Wednesdays, 8pm. Sticky Fingers Boutique, 2201 S. First, 693-9570.* **www.myspace.com**.

VENTANA DEL SOL with Element 615. Reincarnate a word. *Sundays, 7-9pm. Ventana del Soul, 1834 E. Oltorf, 707-7447.* **www.ventanadelsoul.org**.

UNPROTECTED POETRY Spoken word from the House of Soul, with free refreshments. *Thursdays, 7pm. Victory Grill, 1104 E. 11th, 391-0174. $5 (after 8pm; free for performing poets).* **poetryatx@yahoo.com**.

WORD/JAZZ returns with its low stars. Freeform music and poetry. *Thu., Dec. 20, 8pm. Victory Grill, 1104 E. 11th, 477-9438.* **www.diversearts.org**.

CALL FOR ENTRIES

AIPF DIVERSE YOUTH Austin International Poetry Festival's Diverse Youth is accepting poetry submissions from students in grades K-12. Deadline: *Jan. 31.* **www.aipf.org**.

MISCELLANEOUS

THE HOLIDAY BOOK DRIVE invites customers to purchase books for donation at Barnes & Noble bookstores through Jan. 1. Barnes & Noble will distribute the donated books to children through locally designated nonprofit organizations, schools, libraries, and literacy partners. This year Barnes & Noble Sunset Valley will be collecting books for the Women's Storybook Project and Helping Hand Home. *Barnes & Noble South, 5601 Brodie, 892-3493.*

MORE POETRY! *who stirs green skin, the koi white in copper waters? she sits with him, a ghost at the bus stop. smoke for me, the long slow ones with cancer far away. how she babbled the last time on the phone & his attention drifted. what had she said; what sorrow had he missed? her wading into the ocean for its healing waves unheard & who holds translation, singer or song? so he listens now to her ghost waiting for his bus, watery days, the coast in mist, a stone falling into his green skin— her white memory or the last & first things we hear.* Namaste. Vaya con dios.

POEM OF THE ISSUE

I lie

with your figment, ripe

fruit I have

supped

and tongued

and toothed.

Not another secret peeked through your window.

Athena does not watch you.

I do.

– Paula Mendoza-Hanna, "Fuzzy Looking Glass, or Diptych Come Face to Face" (an excerpt) whole poem at **www.notellmotel.org/poem_single.php?id=1203_0_1_0**.

Art Supply SALE!

35% off!

All Sales Final

DOWNTOWN
501 W. 6TH ST.
512.478.8793
M-F 8-5:30
SAT 10-5 (RETAIL ONLY)

NORTH AUSTIN
10713 METRIC BLVD.
512.837.8888
M-F 8-5:30

Art Supplies Include:
Paints, Brushes, Canvas, Pastels and much more!

MILLER blueprint
SINCE 1920

millerblueprint.com

OPEN SATURDAY, DEC. 22 CLOSED DEC. 24 & 25

Best of Citysearch
WINNER - PILATES

$49/month unlimited
Nia, Yoga & Pilates Mat classes

Mention this ad to receive one free month of unlimited Nia, Yoga & Pilates Mat classes when you purchase a 4-session Pilates private or duet package. For first-time Pilates students only. Offer expires December 2007.

Call 328-4440

JoyMoves

2501 S. Capital of Texas Hwy, Austin, TX www.joymoves.com

Juno

D: Jason Reitman; with Ellen Page, Michael Cera, Jennifer Garner, Jason Bateman, Allison Janney, J.K. Simmons. (PG-13, 92 min.)

When 16-year-old Juno (Page) pays for her pregnancy test with the stick – pink for positive – still in hand, the cashier wisecracks, "This is one diddle that can't be undid, home skillet." That quip, care of screenwriter and freshly minted Hot New Thing Diablo Cody, almost had me audibly groaning: So it's gonna be like that, is it? Well, yes and no. The quips keep coming, but they slow, stop feeling so aggressively razzmatazz. The language settles down, and *Juno* settles into a sharp, winning relationship comedy. There are a lot of relationships to choose from – the strained one with her devoted but aggrieved parents (Simmons and Janney), the newly formed one with the potential adoptive parents Juno finds in the *Penny Saver* (Bateman and Garner), and the push-and-pull one with best friend and baby daddy Paulie Bleeker (Cera). Paulie's grand entrance comes by way of slipping on his running shorts and matching wristbands to the tune of the Kinks' "A Well Respected Man," and one can't help but wonder, at first glance, if he's some second cousin to the Tenenbaums, the Minnesota division. But, like everything else in the winsome *Juno*, what plays for laughs has an undeniable ring of real emotion. Paulie may initially seem like a doof, but he's actually funny and smart and cool without trying ("I try really hard," he confesses to Juno) and entirely worthy of her affections. Same goes for Juno: Spend enough time with her deadpan and her irony, and you learn how to read between the lines, to the scared, confused, and royally pissed teenager underneath the brazen, Buddha-bellied exterior (a "cautionary whale," she calls herself). Page (*Hard Candy*) is marvelous, especially considering what a balancing act the role is between bitchy and twee, and she's backed by a terrific ensemble cast. I suspect *Juno* will fall victim to a *Little Miss Sunshine*-sized backlash – trade in *Sunshine*'s pop art for *Juno*'s loving stencils, and you have a fairly obvious overlap in theme and sensibility. As with *Sunshine*, I'd call *Juno* a family film if only it didn't make teen pregnancy look so sporting. Instead, we'll settle for that rare bird, an indie comedy that uplifts – funny and smart, totally trying to be cool and succeeding, and heartfelt to boot. – *Kimberley Jones*

★★★½ Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor, Barton Creek Square, Dobie, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

New Reviews

ALIENS VS. PREDATOR: REQUIEM

D: Greg Strause, Colin Strause; with Reiko Aylesworth, Steven Pasquale, Shareeka Epps, John Ortiz, Johnny Lewis. (R, 86 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. No advance screenings were held for this to-the-death encounter between apocalyptic monsters in Colorado. Fangs and claws will be drawn; expect no beauty-contest prizes. *(Opens Tuesday, Dec. 25.)* – *Marjorie Baumgarten*

Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR

D: Mike Nichols; with Tom Hanks, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Julia Roberts, Amy Adams, Ned Beatty, Denis O'Hare. (R, 97 min.)

It's tough selling a picture these days even nominally related to war, so in the past week's blitzkrieg of promotional press for *Charlie Wilson's War*, we were reminded again and again of one simple fact: This one stars Tom Hanks and Julia Roberts. Yes, yes, it may be about the United States' dubious involvement in another war in the Middle East, in a season of Iraq movies that have failed to spark the viewership's imagination or interest … *but this one stars Tom and Julia*. No worries. Accents by way of *Hee Haw* aside, not once in this would-be political romp do we forget that the man and woman before us, embodying such outré real-life characters as a hard-partying congressman and a born-again Houston socialite, are anyone other than the beloved institutions of Tom and Julia. (It should be noted that a personally beloved institution, Philip Seymour Hoffman, also stars, as an ornery CIA operative, and he's a gas to watch.) Based on George Crile's nonfiction book of the same name, *Charlie Wilson's War* tells the true-life story of how Texan Rep. Wilson (Hanks), best known for boozing and keeping company with *Playboy* Playmates, managed to raise $1 billion with the help of socialite Joanne Herring (Roberts) to secretly fund Afghanistan's mujahideen in their fight against the invading Soviet Union in the early Eighties. Sounds a little wonky, I know, but, as adapted by *The West Wing*'s Aaron Sorkin (no stranger to making politico speech sound snappy), the historical context and current affairs are laid out clearly and engagingly. That said, there's a hokeyness afoot – need I remind you that Sorkin, a TV whiz, is also the guy behind the cuddlebunny *The American President*? Same goes with Nichols' flat direction – anyone who's seen Benjamin Braddock squat at the bottom of the family pool in 1967 knows Nichols is a guy with an eye, but rarely does he put it to use in *Charlie Wilson's War*. This is a visually and emotionally soft affair, and the material calls for something with far sharper edges. Perhaps there was some confusion – should we play this as a lark or a lesson in geopolitical unrest? – or maybe there was some studio involvement to defang the politics; whatever the case, the noncommittal *Charlie Wilson's War* treads a good-natured but yawning in-between. – *Kimberley Jones*

★★ Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

THE GREAT DEBATERS

D: Denzel Washington; with Washington, Forest Whitaker, Nate Parker, Jurnee Smollett, Denzel Whitaker, Kimberly Elise, John Heard. (PG-13, 123 min.)

In his second outing as a director, Washington chooses an inspirational story, yet even though *The Great Debaters* is a historical story worth telling, the film is hobbled by the narrative predictability that inevitably governs this type of drama. Like his first directorial effort, *Antwone Fisher*, *The Great Debaters* is based on a true story in which Washington casts himself in the role of the elder leading man, the guiding figure who helps characters from the younger generation overcome the damage of their past and grab hold of the opportunities for their future. Although Washington is perfectly fine in his performance here as the professor and coach of Wiley College's national-championship-winning debate team in 1935, the role calls for no special showmanship on the part of the dependably brilliant actor. So, too, as the director, Washington brings no special stylistic flourish to the film, instead placing himself at the straightforward service of the Oprah Winfrey-produced story. He plays the role of Melvin B. Tolson, who coaches to victory the all-black Wiley College debate team, which goes on to become the first black team to debate white opponents before riding its winning streak all the way to Boston to unseat the reigning champions at Harvard. The small Marshall, Texas, college is set in the Depression-era, Jim Crow, union-busting South, and the film's atmospherics capture the milieu with striking detail. It is a time and place where segregation is the norm, and lynchings still occur, although the students represent a new generation that has been raised to believe it can beat the odds stacked against it. The debate-team members are also a distinctive group: Henry Lowe (Parker), a antsy scholar who wages a constant battle between his intellectual pursuits and his tumultuous instincts; Samantha Booke (Smollett), who is not only the first black student to enter these debates but the first female black student, as well; and James Farmer Jr. (Denzel Whitaker – no relation to Forest Whitaker, who plays his father, a daunting figure who is one of the South's few African-American Ph.D.s), who is younger than the others and experiences some of the period's harsher race lessons more intimately. (Farmer Jr. grows up to found the groundbreaking anti-segregation organization CORE). The film follows a standard sports-movie structure in which the underdogs fight their way to success. But unlike a sports movie, the key to victory is education and knowledge, mastery of the speaker's lectern rather than a wicked right hook or jump shot. *(Opens Tuesday, Dec. 25.)* – *Marjorie Baumgarten*

★★½ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Tinseltown North

THE KITE RUNNER

D: Marc Forster; with Khalid Abdalla, Homayoun Ershadi, Shaun Toub, Atossa Leoni, Said Tashimaoui, Ahmad Khan Mahmidzada. (PG-13, 122 min.)

Adapting a bestselling novel like Khaled Hosseini's *The Kite Runner* for the screen is often a tricky proposition: Do the filmmakers slavishly adhere to the literary source to satisfy the expectations of a built-in audience familiar with the book, or do they aim to make a stand-alone movie that just happens to be based on a popular piece of fiction? In other words, it can be a matter of damned if you do, damned if you don't. The screen version of Hosseini's phenomenally successful novel about friendship, betrayal, and redemption, set against the turmoil in Afghanistan during the last 30 years, is an example of how good intentions don't necessarily make for a good movie. Screenwriter David Benioff and director Forster are faithful to the

novel to a fault, retaining a level of narrative detail that bogs down the principal storyline about a haunted Afghan-American man who is blessed with the chance "to be good again" and rectify a wrong he committed years ago. The film's early scenes establishing the boyhood bond between the privileged Amir and the servant's son Hassan effectively set up the tragic turn of events that forever separate the two, both in the physical and the emotional sense. As the simple and loyal Hassan, young Mahmidzada is perfectly cast – his eyes are expressive beyond their years, and he projects the inherent goodness essential to the role. But as the film progresses, the narrative focus gets diluted and never really recovers, even when the grownup Amir returns to his native country, a ruined place he no longer recognizes. Some of the improbabilities in the third act of Hosseini's book seem even more unlikely on the screen – the villain is a sadistic pedophile high in the ranks of the Taliban government – and the thematic essence of the film is equally marred by the heightened melodramatics that undermined the last third of the novel. Still, the kite-fighting sequences here are magnificent, staged and shot by Forster like aerial dogfights in which fluttering constructions of paper and string do battle in the sky. (Alberto Iglesias' beautiful score adds much to these poetic skirmishes.) It's during these scenes that *The Kite Runner* soars, only to be inevitably brought down to earth by the remainder of the movie. – *Steve Davis*

★★½ Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor, Barton Creek Square

NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS

D: Jon Turteltaub; with Nicolas Cage, Diane Kruger, Helen Mirren, Harvey Keitel, Ed Harris, Jon Voight, Bruce Greenwood. (PG, 124 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. In this adventure sequel, which was not screened in advance for press, treasure hunter Cage is directly affected by a revelation contained in a missing page of John Wilkes Booth's diary that implicates his great-great-grandfather in Abraham Lincoln's death. And no, it's not a biopic about Dr. Samuel Mudd. – *Marjorie Baumgarten*

Alamo Drafthouse South, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

P.S. I LOVE YOU

D: Richard LaGravenese; with Hilary Swank, Gerard Butler, Gina Gershon, Lisa Kudrow, Kathy Bates, Harry Connick Jr., Jeffrey Dean Morgan, James Marsters. (PG-13, 126 min.)

LaGravenese is usually a terrific screenwriter (*The Fisher King*, *The Ref*, *Unstrung Heroes*), but this adaptation (with Steve Rogers) of Cecelia Ahern's novel is almost insufferably sufferable. It's a chick flick of the tallest order, with schmaltz galore and the sort of ongoing romantic hubris that practically screams, "This is codswallop, right?" Smart boyfriends, however, will grin and bear it. Swank, as the grieving widow, Holly, is all knees and elbows and cheekbones and denial. Swank has always been muscularly rawboned, but here she looks as if her character's recently deceased husband, Gerry (Butler, generically Irish, which here means soulful and musically inclined), has stolen not only her heart but her literal and metaphorical curvature. Post-wake, she's goes to ground in the former couple's NYC apartment, sympathizing with Bette Davis' tumorous *Dark Victory* while acting and keeping house, as her mother-in-law notes, like a mad Miss Havisham. This sudden dashing of expectations, great or otherwise, sends Holly into an emotional and mental tailspin of impressive nihilism. Until, that is, her 30th birthday, when she receives a letter from her dead spouse, who, crafty lad that he was, has thoughtfully seen fit to keep the love – and by extension, the healing – flowing from beyond the grave. Together with mother-in-law Bates (doing a canny impression of Shirley MacLaine), possible new love Connick Jr. (doing an uncanny impression of Michael Cera in *Juno*), and BFFs Gershon and Kudrow, Swank embarks on a teary journey of Lifetime proportions. Hope floats all over the place in *P.S. I Love You*, but it's Connick Jr.'s goofy, lovesick bartender who makes it all tolerable. Although it's never stated directly, he apparently suffers from Asperger's syndrome, which provides for

Openings

Aliens vs. Predator: Requiem (R, opens Tuesday)

Charlie Wilson's War (R)

The Great Debaters (PG-13, opens Tuesday)

Juno (PG-13)

The Kite Runner (PG-13)

National Treasure: Book of Secrets (PG)

P.S. I Love You (PG-13)

Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street (R)

Taare Zameen Par (NR)

Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story (R)

The Walker (R)

The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep (PG, opens Tuesday)

Ratings

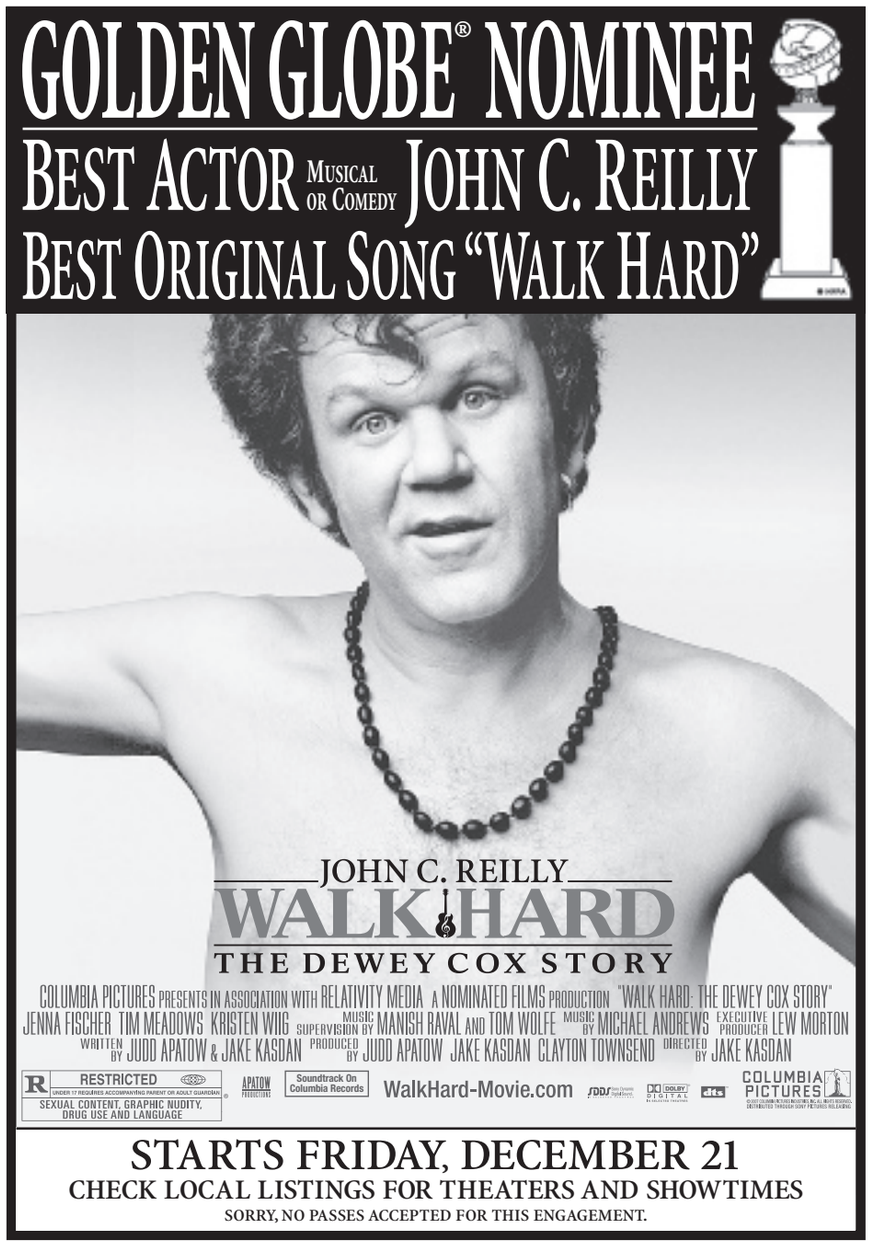
★★★★★	As perfect as a movie can be
★★★★	Slightly flawed, but excellent nonetheless
★★★	Has its good points, and its bad points
★★	Mediocre, but with one or two bright spots
★	Poor, without any saving graces
💣	La bomba

GALAXY THEATRES
#1 IN CUSTOMER SERVICE
HIGHLAND 10 512-467-7305
100% STADIUM SEATING ~ ALL DIGITAL SOUND
BARGAIN MATINEES DAILY

NOTICE: NO ONE UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE WILL BE ALLOWED IN THE THEATRE ON FRI. & SAT. AFTER 7PM WITHOUT AN ADULT.

I AM LEGEND (PG–13) Fri. 12:00 2:00 2:30 4:30 5:00 7:00 7:30 9:30 10:00 11:59
Sat. 11:30 12:00 2:00 2:30 4:30 5:00 7:00 7:30 9:30 10:00 11:59
Sun. 11:30 12:00 2:00 2:30 4:30 5:00 7:00 7:30 9:30 10:00
Mon. 12:00 2:00 2:30 4:30 5:00 7:00 7:30 9:30 10:00
Tue. - Thu. 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:30
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (PG) Fri. 12:30 2:35 4:40 7:10 9:20 11:30
Sat. 10:25 12:30 2:35 4:40 7:10 9:20 11:30
Sun. 10:25 12:30 2:35 4:40 7:10 9:20
Mon. - Thu. 12:30 2:35 4:40 7:10 9:20
CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR (R) Fri. 12:30 2:45 5:00 7:20 9:40 11:55
Sat. 10:15 12:30 2:45 5:00 7:20 9:40 11:55
Sun. 10:15 12:30 2:45 5:00 7:20 9:40
Mon. - Thu. 12:30 2:45 5:00 7:20 9:40
THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG–13) Fri. 12:00 2:00 2:30 4:30 5:00 7:00 7:30 9:30 10:00
Sat. & Sun. 11:30 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 9:30 10:00
Mon. 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 9:30 10:00
NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS (PG) Fri. 1:45 2:15 4:30 5:00 7:15 7:45 10:00 10:30 11:45
Sat. 11:00 1:45 2:15 4:30 5:00 7:15 7:45 10:00 10:30 11:45
Sun. 11:00 1:45 2:15 4:30 5:00 7:15 7:45 10:00 10:30
Mon. - Thu. 1:45 2:15 4:30 5:00 7:15 7:45 10:00 10:30
P.S. I LOVE YOU (PG–13) Fri. - Thu. 1:40 4:25 7:10 9:55
WALK HARD: THE DEWEY COX STORY (R) Fri. 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50 11:59
Sat. 10:50 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50 11:59
Sun. 10:50 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
Mon. - Thu. 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
ENCHANTED (PG) Sat. & Sun. 10:05
THE NUTCRACKER BALLET (NR) Sat. - Mon. 2:00 5:00
ALIENS VS. PREDATOR: REQUIEM (R) Tue. - Thu. 12:50 3:00 5:10 7:20 9:30
THE WATER HORSE: LEGEND OF THE DEEP (PG) Tue. - Thu. 2:05 4:30 7:00 9:30
THE GREAT DEBATERS (PG–13) Tue. - Thu. 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

★ - Special Engagement: No Passes/Coupons
Tickets available online at GALAXYTHEATRES.com



Showtimes

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21 - THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE AT THE RITZ *320 E. Sixth, 476-1320.*

High for the Holidays: *Beerfest* With Beerlympics: Sun, 7:00pm; Tue-Wed, 7:00pm
Terror Thursday: *Dead Kids:* Thu (12/27), 12mid
Weird Wednesday: *Drunken Wutang:* Wed, 12mid
High for the Holidays: (Good) *Friday:* Wed, 9:45pm
High for the Holidays: *Harold & Kumar Go to White Castle* With All-You-Can-Eat Mini-Burgers: Mon, 7:00pm; Thu (12/27), 7:00pm
High for the Holidays: *Head:* Mon, 9:45pm
Master Pancake: *Home Alone:* Fri-Sat, 9:45, 12mid
***I Am Legend:** Fri-Sat, 11:45am, 2:15, 4:45, 7:25, 9:30, 11:55pm; Sun-Mon, 11:45am, 2:15, 4:45, 7:25, 9:55pm; Tue, 4:45, 7:25, 9:55; Wed-Thu (12/27), 11:45am, 2:15, 4:45, 7:25, 9:55pm
I'm Not There: 3:50pm
Lars and the Real Girl: Fri, 7:00pm; Sat, 11:00am, 1:25, 7:00pm; Sun-Mon, 11:00am, 1:25pm; Wed-Thu (12/27), 11:00am, 1:25pm
High for the Holidays: *Reefer Madness: The Movie Musical Sing-Along:* Thu (12/27), 9:45pm
High for the Holidays: *The Wizard of Oz* With *Dark Side of the Moon:* Sun, 9:45pm; Tue, 9:45pm; Wed-Thu (12/27), 12mid

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE LAKE CREEK *13729 Research, 219-8135.*

***Aliens vs. Predator: Requiem:** Tue-Thu (12/27), 12:15, 3:25, 7:30, 10:30
American Gangster: Fri-Sun, 11:45am, 3:10, 7:05, 10:30pm; Mon, 11:45am, 3:10, 7:05pm
August Rush: Fri-Mon, 12:05, 3:05
Tromatic Thursday: *Dr. Hackenstein:* Thu (12/27), 10:00pm
The Golden Compass: Fri, 12:30, 3:40; Sat-Sun, 12:30, 3:40, 7:35, 10:35; Mon, 12:30, 3:40, 7:35; Tue-Thu (12/27), 12:30, 3:40, 7:35, 10:35
***The Great Debaters:** Tue-Thu (12/27), 11:50am, 3:05, 7:10, 10:15pm
***I Am Legend:** Fri-Sun, 12:10, 12:40, 3:00, 3:35, 7:15, 7:30, 10:00, 10:25; Mon, 12:10, 12:40, 3:00, 3:35, 7:15, 7:30; Tue-Wed, 12:10, 12:40, 3:00, 3:35, 7:15, 7:25, 10:00, 10:25; Thu (12/27), 12:10, 12:40, 3:00, 3:35, 7:15, 10:00
No Country for Old Men: Fri-Sun, 12:00, 3:15, 7:00, 10:05; Mon, 12:00, 3:15, 7:00; Tue-Thu (12/27), 12:00, 3:15, 7:00, 10:05
***Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story:** Fri-Sun, 12:45, 3:30, 7:10, 7:15, 10:10, 10:25; Mon, 12:45, 3:30, 7:10, 7:15; Tue-Thu (12/27), 12:45, 3:30, 7:25, 10:10

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE SOUTH *1120 S. Lamar, 476-1320.*

Kids Club: *Emmet Otter's Jug-Band Christmas:* Uncut: Sat, 12:00pm
Enchanted: Fri, 1:40pm; Sat-Sun, 11:05am, 1:40pm; Mon-Thu (12/27), 11:05am, 1:40, 4:20pm
Juno: Fri, 11:00am, 1:30, 4:10, 5:30, 7:00, 8:00, 9:25, 10:30, 11:45pm; Sat-Sun, 11:00am, 1:30, 4:10, 4:15, 5:30, 7:00, 8:00, 9:25, 10:30, 11:45pm; Mon-Thu (12/27), 11:00am, 1:30, 4:10, 5:30, 7:00, 8:00, 9:25, 10:30, 11:45pm
The Kite Runner: 12:40, 3:35, 7:05, 10:00
National Treasure: Book of Secrets: Fri, 11:10am, 2:15, 7:15, 10:15pm; Sat, 2:15, 7:15, 10:15; Sun-Thu (12/27), 11:10am, 2:15, 7:15, 10:15pm
No Country for Old Men: Fri, 11:15am, 4:45, 7:35, 10:10pm; Sat-Thu (12/27), 11:15am, 2:00, 4:45, 7:35, 10:10pm
Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street: Fri-Mon, 12:30, 3:30, 7:30, 10:35; Tue, 12:30, 3:30, 7:00, 7:30, 10:35; Wed-Thu (12/27), 12:30, 3:30, 7:30, 10:35

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE VILLAGE *2700 W. Anderson, 476-1320.* Tuesday matinee "Baby Day" shows (first show of the day) are intended for parents and children aged infant to 6 years old.

***Charlie Wilson's War:** Fri-Sun, 11:00am, 1:35, 4:20, 7:20, 10:00pm; Mon, 1:35, 4:20, 7:20, 10:00; Tue, 4:20, 7:20, 10:00; Wed-Thu (12/27), 1:35, 4:20, 7:20, 10:00
The Golden Compass: Fri-Mon, 1:10, 4:15, 7:25, 10:20; Tue, 4:15, 7:25, 10:20; Wed-Thu (12/27), 1:10, 4:15, 7:25, 10:20
***I Am Legend:** Fri-Sun, 1:15, 4:05, 7:00, 9:45, 12mid; Mon, 1:15, 4:05, 7:00, 9:45; Tue, 4:05, 7:00, 9:45; Wed-Thu (12/27), 1:15, 4:05, 7:00, 9:45
The Rocky Horror Picture Show: Sat, 12mid
***Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story:** Fri-Sun, 11:15am, 1:40, 4:10, 7:05, 9:50, 12mid; Mon, 1:40, 4:10, 7:05, 9:50; Tue, 4:10, 7:05, 9:50; Wed-Thu (12/27), 1:40, 4:10, 7:05, 9:50

ARBOR CINEMA @ GREAT HILLS *9828 Great Hills Trail (at Jollyville), 231-9742.* Discounts daily before 6pm; all day Wednesdays. Call theatre for showtimes Tuesday, Dec. 25, through Thursday, Dec. 27.

***Atonement:** Fri-Sun, 11:45am, 1:00, 2:20, 4:00, 5:10, 6:50, 8:00, 9:50pm; Mon, 11:45am, 1:00, 2:20, 4:00, 5:10, 6:50pm
Juno: Fri-Sun, 12:00, 12:40, 2:30, 3:00, 4:45, 5:20, 7:10, 7:40, 9:30, 10:00; Mon, 12:00, 12:40, 2:30, 3:00, 4:45, 5:20, 7:10, 7:40
The Kite Runner: Fri-Sun, 12:10, 12:50, 2:50, 4:30, 6:40, 7:30, 9:40; Mon, 12:10, 12:50, 2:50, 4:30, 6:40
Margot at the Wedding: Fri-Sun, 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:45; Mon, 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20
No Country for Old Men: Fri-Sun, 12:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:55; Mon, 12:30, 4:15, 7:00

BARTON CREEK SQUARE (AMC) *Barton Creek Square mall (MoPac and Highway 360), 306-9190.* Matinee discounts available before 6pm on weekdays and before 4pm Friday through Sunday and holidays.

***Aliens vs. Predator: Requiem:** Tue-Thu (12/27), 10:25am, 12:40, 2:55, 5:15, 7:30, 9:40, 11:45pm
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Fri-Sun, 10:15am, 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30pm; Mon, 10:15am, 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15pm
***Alvin and the Chipmunks* (closed captioned):** Tue-Thu (12/27), 10:15am, 12:30, 2:40, 4:55, 7:05, 9:35pm
American Gangster: Fri-Mon, 1:30, 7:30
August Rush: Fri-Sat, 12:05, 5:05; Sun, 12:45, 5:45; Mon, 12:05, 5:05
Before the Devil Knows You're Dead: Fri-Sat, 10:50am, 4:50, 10:50pm; Sun, 4:50, 10:50; Mon, 10:50am, 4:50pm
Charlie Wilson's War: Fri-Sun, 11:30am, 1:50, 4:10, 7:00, 9:20, 11:40pm; Mon, 11:30am, 1:50, 4:10, 7:00pm; Tue-Thu (12/27), 9:30am, 11:45, 2:10, 4:35, 7:00, 9:25, 11:50pm
Enchanted: Fri-Sat, 9:35am, 12:05, 2:35, 5:25, 7:50, 10:30pm; Sun, 12:30, 2:50, 5:25, 7:50, 10:30; Mon, 9:35am, 12:05, 2:35, 5:25, 7:50pm; Tue-Thu (12/27), 9:35am, 12:05, 2:35, 5:25, 7:50, 10:30pm
Fred Claus: Fri-Sat, 9:30am, 2:25, 7:40pm; Sun, 3:15, 8:05; Mon, 9:30am, 2:25, 7:40pm
The Golden Compass: Fri-Sat, 9:45am, 12:20, 3:00, 5:45, 8:15, 10:55pm; Sun, 12:30, 3:00, 5:45, 8:15, 10:55; Mon, 9:45am, 12:20, 3:00, 5:45, 8:15pm; Tue-Thu (12/27), 9:45am, 12:20, 3:00, 5:45, 8:15, 10:55pm
I Am Legend: Fri-Sun, 11:10am, 1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:25, 11:45pm; Mon, 11:10am, 1:45, 4:20, 7pm; Tue, 9:25am, 11:50, 2:15, 4:40, 7:05, 9:30, 11:50pm; Wed-Thu (12/27), 10:00am, 12:25, 3:05, 5:30, 8:10, 10:35pm
***I Am Legend* (closed captioned):** Fri-Sun, 9:40am, 12:10, 2:55, 5:20, 8:00, 10:25pm; Mon, 9:40am, 12:10, 2:55, 5:20, 8:00pm
Juno: Tue-Thu (12/27), 10:10am, 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:25, 11:40pm
The Kite Runner: Fri-Sat, 10:45am, 1:30, 4:30, 7:20, 10:15pm; Sun, 1:30, 4:30, 7:20, 10:15; Mon, 10:45am, 1:30, 4:30, 7:20pm; Tue-Thu (12/27), 10:45am, 1:30, 4:30, 7:20, 10:15pm
National Treasure: Book of Secrets: Fri-Sun, 9:15am, 12:00, 2:50, 5:40, 8:30, 11:30pm; Mon, 9:15am, 12:00, 2:50, 5:40, 8:30pm; Tue-Thu (12/27), 9:15am, 12:00, 2:50, 5:40, 8:30, 11:30pm
No Country for Old Men: Fri-Sat, 11:20am, 2:05, 4:45, 10:20pm; Sun, 2:05, 4:45, 10:30; Mon, 11:20am, 2:05, 4:45pm; Tue-Thu (12/27), 11:20am, 2:05, 4:45, 10:20pm
P.S. I Love You: Fri-Sun, 11:00am, 2:00, 4:50, 7:45, 10:40pm; Mon, 11:00am, 2:00, 4:50, 7:45pm; Tue-Thu (12/27), 11:00am, 2:00, 4:50, 7:45, 10:40pm
Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street: Fri-Sun, 9:45am, 12:30, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 11:30pm; Mon, 9:45am, 12:30, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30pm; Tue-Thu (12/27), 9:45am, 12:30, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 11:30pm
Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story: Fri-Sun, 10:15am, 12:35, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30, 11:45pm; Mon, 10:15am, 12:35, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15pm; Tue-Thu (12/27), 10:20am, 12:35, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30, 11:45pm
The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep: Tue-Thu (12/27), 9:15am, 11:35, 2:00, 4:25, 7:00, 9:25pm

FOR UPDATED SHOWTIMES, SEE
austinchronicle.com/film.

CINEMARK CEDAR PARK *1335 E. Whitestone, 800/FANDANGO.*

***Aliens vs. Predator: Requiem:** Tue, 2:10, 4:50, 7:20, 9:45; Wed-Thu (12/27), 11:50am, 2:10, 4:50, 7:20, 9:45pm
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Fri-Sun, 11:30am, 12:30, 2:00, 3:00, 4:30, 5:30, 7:00, 8:00, 9:15, 10:30pm; Mon, 11:30am, 12:30, 2:00, 3:00, 4:30, 5:30, 7:00, 8:00pm; Tue, 2:00, 3:00, 4:30, 5:30, 7:00, 8:00, 9:15, 10:30; Wed-Thu (12/27), 11:30am, 12:30, 2:00, 3:00, 4:30, 5:30, 7:00, 8:00, 9:15, 10:30pm
***Charlie Wilson's War:** Fri-Sun, 11:40am, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:50pm; Mon, 11:40am, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15pm; Tue, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:50; Wed-Thu (12/27), 11:40am, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:50pm
Enchanted: Fri-Sun, 11:35am, 2:10, 5:00, 7:45, 10:15pm; Mon, 11:35am, 2:10, 5:00, 7:45pm; Wed-Thu (12/27), 12:15pm
The Golden Compass: Fri-Sun, 1:15, 4:00, 6:55, 9:30; Mon, 1:15, 4:00, 6:55; Tue-Thu (12/27), 1:15, 4:00, 6:55, 9:30
I Am Legend: Fri-Sun, 11:45am, 12:45, 2:30, 3:45, 5:20, 6:30, 7:50, 9:00, 10:20pm; Mon, 11:45am, 12:45, 2:30, 3:45, 5:20, 6:30, 7:50, 9:00, 10:20; Wed-Thu (12/27), 11:45am, 12:45, 2:30, 3:45, 5:20, 6:30, 7:50, 9:00, 10:20pm
***National Treasure: Book of Secrets:** Fri-Sun, 12:15, 1:00, 3:30, 4:15, 6:45, 7:30, 10:00, 10:45; Mon, 12:15, 1:00, 3:30, 4:15, 6:45, 7:30; Tue-Thu (12/27), 1:00, 3:30, 4:15, 6:45, 7:30, 10:00, 10:45
***No Country for Old Men:** Fri-Sun, 11:50am, 3:10, 6:40, 9:35pm; Mon, 11:50am, 3:10, 6:40pm
***P.S. I Love You:** Fri-Sun, 12:00, 3:20, 6:50, 9:40; Mon, 12:00, 3:20, 6:50; Tue, 3:15, 6:50, 9:40; Wed-Thu (12/27), 12:00, 3:15, 6:50, 9:40
***Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story:** Fri-Sun, 12:10, 2:45, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10; Mon, 12:10, 2:45, 5:10, 7:40; Tue, 2:45, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10; Wed-Thu (12/27), 12:10, 2:45, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10
***The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep:** Tue, 2:20, 5:00, 7:45, 10:25; Wed-Thu (12/27), 11:35am, 2:20, 5:00, 7:45, 10:25pm

CINEMARK HILL COUNTRY GALLERIA *12800 Hwy. 71, 800/FANDANGO.*

***Aliens vs. Predator: Requiem:** Tue, 2:30, 4:50, 7:25, 9:55; Wed-Thu (12/27), 11:45am, 2:30, 4:50, 7:25, 9:55pm
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Fri-Sun, 11:40am, 12:25, 2:10, 2:55, 4:40, 5:25, 7:15, 8:00, 9:40; Mon, 11:40am, 12:25, 2:10, 2:55, 4:40, 5:25, 7:15, 8:00pm; Tue, 2:10, 2:55, 4:40, 5:25, 7:15, 8:00, 9:40; Wed-Thu (12/27), 11:40am, 12:25, 2:10, 2:55, 4:40, 5:25, 7:15, 8:00, 9:40pm
***Charlie Wilson's War:** Fri-Sun, 11:25am, 2:20, 5:15, 7:55, 10:35pm; Mon, 11:25am, 2:20, 5:15, 7:55pm; Tue, 2:20, 5:15, 7:55, 10:35; Wed-Thu (12/27), 11:25am, 2:20, 5:15, 7:55, 10:35pm
Enchanted: Fri-Sun, 11:35am, 12:50, 2:25, 3:50, 5:10, 6:35, 7:55, 9:25, 10:30pm; Mon, 11:35am, 12:50, 2:25, 3:50, 5:10, 6:35, 7:55pm; Tue, 2:25, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30; Wed-Thu (12/27), 11:35am, 2:25, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30pm
The Golden Compass: Fri-Sun, 11:20am, 2:05, 4:55, 7:50, 10:30pm; Mon, 11:20am, 2:05, 4:55, 7:50pm; Tue, 2:00, 4:55, 7:35, 10:15; Wed-Thu (12/27), 11:20am, 2:00, 4:55, 7:35, 10:15pm
***The Great Debaters:** Tue, 3:55, 6:55, 10:00; Wed-Thu (12/27), 12:40, 3:55, 6:55, 10:00
***I Am Legend:** Fri-Sun, 11:30am, 12:15, 1:00, 2:15, 3:00, 3:45, 5:00, 6:05, 7:00, 7:45, 9:10, 9:40, 10:15pm; Mon, 11:30am, 12:15, 1:00, 2:15, 3:00, 3:45, 5:00, 6:05, 7:00, 7:45pm; Tue, 2:15, 3:00, 5:05, 6:05, 7:40, 9:10, 10:10; Wed-Thu (12/27), 11:30am, 12:15, 2:15, 3:00, 5:05, 6:05, 7:40, 9:10, 10:10pm
***National Treasure: Book of Secrets:** Fri-Sun, 12:00, 12:55, 3:15, 4:10, 6:25, 7:20, 9:35, 10:25; Mon, 12:00, 12:55, 3:15, 4:10, 6:25, 7:20; Tue, 3:15, 4:10, 6:25, 7:20, 9:35, 10:25; Wed-Thu (12/27), 12:00, 12:55, 3:15, 4:10, 6:25, 7:20, 9:35, 10:25
***No Country for Old Men:** Fri-Sun, 12:40, 3:55, 7:05, 10:00; Mon, 12:40, 3:55, 7:05; Tue-Thu (12/27), 10:20pm
***P.S. I Love You:** Fri-Sun, 12:15, 3:30, 6:45, 9:50; Mon, 12:15, 3:30, 6:45; Tue, 3:30, 6:45, 9:50; Wed-Thu (12/27), 12:20, 3:30, 6:45, 9:50
***Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story:** Fri-Sun, 11:15am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 9:45pm; Mon, 11:15am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:10pm; Tue, 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 9:45; Wed-Thu (12/27), 11:15am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 9:45pm
***The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep:** Tue, 2:05, 5:00, 7:45, 10:35; Wed-Thu (12/27), 11:15am, 2:05, 5:00, 7:45, 10:35pm

CINEMARK MOVIES 8 ROUND ROCK *2120 N. Mays (Round Rock), 512/388-2848.* Discounts daily before 5pm. Call theatre for showtimes Tuesday, Dec. 25, through Thursday, Dec. 27.

***Bee Movie:** Fri-Sun, 11:00am, 11:45, 1:20, 2:05, 4:00, 4:35, 6:30, 7:15, 9:00, 9:30pm; Mon, 11:00am, 11:45, 1:20, 2:05, 4:00, 4:35, 6:30, 7:15pm
The Bourne Ultimatum: Fri-Sun, 11:05am, 1:45, 4:25, 7:05, 9:45pm; Mon, 11:05am, 1:45, 4:25, 7:05pm
***The Kingdom:** Fri-Sun, 11:20am, 4:20, 9:35pm; Mon, 11:20am, 4:20pm
Mr. Bean's Holiday: Fri-Sun, 11:25am, 1:40, 4:30, 6:45, 9:05pm; Mon, 11:25am, 1:40, 4:30, 6:45pm
***Resident Evil: Extinction:** Fri-Mon, 2:10, 7:00
***Rush Hour 3:** Fri-Sun, 11:30am, 1:50, 4:15, 7:10, 9:15pm; Mon, 11:30am, 1:50, 4:15, 7:10pm
***Tyler Perry's Why Did I Get Married?:** Fri-Sun, 11:10am, 1:55, 4:40, 7:25, 10:10pm; Mon, 11:10am, 1:55, 4:40, 7:25pm
***We Own the Night:** Fri-Sun, 11:15am, 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15pm; Mon, 11:15am, 2:00, 4:45, 7:30pm

CINEMARK ROUND ROCK *4401 N. I-35, 800/FANDANGO.*

***Aliens vs. Predator: Requiem:** Tue, 2:40, 5:15, 8:15, 10:40; Wed-Thu (12/27), 12:10, 2:40, 5:15, 8:15, 10:40
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Fri-Sun, 10:05am, 10:50, 12:20, 1:15, 2:35, 3:30, 5:10, 6:45, 7:30, 9:10, 9:55pm; Mon, 10:05am, 10:50, 12:20, 1:15, 2:35, 3:30, 5:10, 6:45, 7:30pm; Tue, 1:15, 2:35, 3:30, 5:05, 6:30, 7:35, 10:00; Wed-Thu (12/27), 10:05am, 10:50, 12:20, 1:15, 2:35, 3:30, 5:05, 6:30, 7:35, 10:00pm
August Rush: Fri-Sun, 7:55, 10:40; Mon, 7:55pm
***Charlie Wilson's War:** Fri-Sun, 11:10am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:35, 10:15pm; Mon, 11:10am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:35pm; Tue, 1:35, 4:30, 7:15, 9:50; Wed-Thu (12/27), 10:55am, 1:35, 4:30, 7:15, 9:50pm
Enchanted: Fri-Sun, 11:00am, 1:50, 4:50, 7:20, 10pm; Mon, 11:00am, 1:50, 4:50, 7:20pm; Tue, 3:20, 6:20, 9:10; Wed-Thu (12/27), 9:50am, 12:30, 3:20, 6:20, 9:10pm
Fred Claus: Fri-Mon, 11:05am, 2:05, 5:00pm
The Golden Compass: Fri-Sun, 10:15am, 1:10, 4:15, 6:55, 9:40pm; Mon, 10:15am, 1:10, 4:15, 6:55pm; Tue-Thu (12/27), 9:00pm
***The Great Debaters:** Tue, 1:10, 4:15, 7:20, 10:20; Wed-Thu (12/27), 10:15am, 1:10, 4:15, 7:20, 10:20pm
***I Am Legend:** Fri-Sun, 10:00am, 10:45, 11:30, 12:30, 1:20, 2:15, 3:15, 4:20, 5:05, 6:30, 7:10, 8:05, 9:00, 9:45, 10:30pm; Mon, 10:00am, 10:45, 11:30, 12:30, 1:20, 2:15, 3:15, 4:20, 5:05, 6:30, 7:10, 8:05pm; Tue, 1:20, 3:05, 4:05, 5:30, 6:50, 8:00, 9:40, 10:25; Wed-Thu (12/27), 10:10am, 10:45, 12:40, 1:20, 3:05, 4:05, 5:30, 6:50, 8:00, 9:40, 10:25pm
***National Treasure: Book of Secrets:** Fri-Sun, 9:45am, 10:30, 11:50, 1:00, 1:40, 3:00, 4:00, 4:45, 6:15, 7:05, 7:50, 9:30, 10:10, 10:45pm; Mon, 9:45am, 10:30, 11:50, 1:00, 1:40, 3:00, 4:00, 4:45, 6:15, 7:05, 7:50pm; Tue, 1:00, 1:40, 3:00, 4:00, 4:45, 6:15, 7:05, 7:50, 9:30, 10:10, 10:45; Wed-Thu (12/27), 9:45am, 10:30, 11:50, 1:00, 1:40, 3:00, 4:00, 4:45, 6:15, 7:05, 7:50, 9:30, 10:10, 10:45pm
***P.S. I Love You:** Fri-Sun, 9:50am, 12:50, 3:45, 6:50, 9:50pm; Mon, 9:50am, 12:50, 3:45, 6:50pm; Tue, 12:50, 3:45, 6:45, 9:45; Wed-Thu (12/27), 10:00am, 12:50, 3:45, 6:45, 9:45pm
***Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story:** Fri-Sun, 11:20am, 2:30, 5:20, 8:00, 10:25pm; Mon, 11:20am, 2:30, 5:20, 8pm; Tue, 2:20, 5:25, 8:10, 10:30; Wed-Thu (12/27), 11:20am, 2:20, 5:25, 8:10, 10:30pm
***The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep:** Tue, 2:00, 4:50, 7:30, 10:15; Wed-Thu (12/27), 11:10am, 2:00, 4:50, 7:30, 10:15pm

An asterisk (*) before a title means that no passes or special admission discounts will be accepted.

Changes may sometimes occur; viewers are encouraged to call theatres to confirm showtimes.

CINEMARK SOUTHPARK MEADOWS *9900 S. I-35, 800/FANDANGO.*

***Aliens vs. Predator: Requiem:** Tue, 2:00, 3:45, 4:35, 6:35, 7:10, 9:45, 10:25; Wed-Thu (12/27), 11:30am, 12:55, 2:00, 3:45, 4:35, 6:35, 7:10, 9:45, 10:25pm
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Fri-Sun, 10:15am, 10:45, 1:00, 1:45, 4:00, 4:45, 6:40, 7:40, 9:30, 10:10pm; Mon, 10:15am, 10:45, 1:00, 1:45, 4:00, 4:45, 6:40, 7:40pm; Tue, 1:00, 1:45, 4:00, 4:45, 6:30, 7:40, 9:30; Wed-Thu (12/27), 10:15am, 10:45, 1:00, 1:45, 4:00, 4:45, 6:30, 7:40, 9:30pm
***Charlie Wilson's War:** Fri-Sun, 10:25am, 1:05, 3:40, 6:55, 9:40pm; Mon, 10:25am, 1:05, 3:40, 6:55pm; Tue, 1:05, 3:40, 6:55, 9:40; Wed-Thu (12/27), 10:10am, 1:05, 3:40, 6:55, 9:40pm
Enchanted: Fri-Sun, 10:00am, 12:50, 3:45, 6:40, 9:20pm; Mon, 10:00am, 12:50, 3:45, 6:40pm; Tue-Thu (12/27), 12:50pm
The Golden Compass: Fri-Sun, 9:55am, 12:45, 4:10, 7:00, 9:55pm; Mon, 9:55am, 12:45, 4:10, 7pm; Tue, 12:45, 4:10, 7:00; Wed-Thu (12/27), 9:55am, 12:45, 4:10, 7:00pm
***The Great Debaters:** Tue, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20; Wed-Thu (12/27), 10:40am, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20pm
***I Am Legend:** Fri-Sun, 9:55am, 10:30, 11:15, 12:40, 1:20, 2:00, 3:50, 4:20, 5:00, 6:45, 7:15, 7:55, 9:35, 10:00, 10:30pm; Mon, 9:55am, 10:30, 11:15, 12:40, 1:20, 2:00, 3:50, 4:20, 5:00, 6:45, 7:15, 7:55pm; Tue, 12:40, 1:20, 3:50, 4:20, 6:45, 7:15, 9:35, 10:00, 10:30; Wed-Thu (12/27), 9:55am, 10:30, 12:40, 1:20, 3:50, 4:20, 6:45, 7:15, 9:35, 10:00, 10:30pm
***National Treasure: Book of Secrets:** Fri-Sun, 10:05am, 11:30, 1:10, 3:30, 4:25, 6:50, 7:35, 9:55, 10:35pm; Mon, 10:05am, 11:30, 1:10, 3:30, 4:25, 6:50, 7:35pm; Tue, 1:10, 3:30, 4:25, 6:50, 7:35, 9:55, 10:35; Wed-Thu (12/27), 10:05am, 1:10, 3:30, 4:25, 6:50, 7:35, 9:55, 10:35pm
***No Country for Old Men:** Fri-Sun, 10:20am, 1:15, 4:15, 7:10, 10:15pm; Mon, 10:20am, 1:15, 4:15, 7:10pm; Tue-Thu (12/27), 10:15pm
***The Perfect Holiday:** Fri-Mon, 10:40am, 4:05, 10:25pm
***P.S. I Love You:** Fri-Sun, 10:10am, 1:25, 4:30, 7:25, 10:20pm; Mon, 10:10am, 1:25, 4:30, 7:25pm; Tue, 1:25, 4:30, 7:25, 10:20; Wed-Thu (12/27), 10:20am, 1:25, 4:30, 7:25, 10:20pm
***This Christmas:** Fri-Mon, 1:05, 7:05
***Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story:** Fri-Sun, 10:35am, 1:30, 3:55, 7:20, 10:05pm; Mon, 10:35am, 1:30, 3:55, 7:20pm; Tue, 1:30, 3:55, 7:20, 10:05; Wed-Thu (12/27), 10:35am, 1:30, 3:55, 7:20, 10:05pm
***The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep:** Tue, 12:40, 3:35, 7:05, 9:45; Wed-Thu (12/27), 10:00am, 12:40, 3:35, 7:05, 9:45pm

DOBIE THEATRE *2025 Guadalupe (Dobie Mall, second floor), 472-FILM.*

***Before the Devil Knows You're Dead:** Fri-Sun, 10:00pm; Tue, 4:10, 10:00; Wed-Thu (12/27), 10:00pm
***The Darjeeling Limited:** Fri, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10; Sat-Sun, 1:30, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10; Mon, 7:20pm; Tue, 1:30, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10; Wed-Thu (12/27), 7:20, 10:10
***I'm Not There:** Fri, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50; Sat-Sun, 1:10, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50; Mon, 4:10, 7:00; Tue, 1:10, 7:00; Wed-Thu (12/27), 7:00pm
***Into the Wild:** Fri, 4:00, 6:50, 9:40; Sat-Sun, 1:00, 4:00, 6:50, 9:40; Mon, 6:50pm; Tue, 1:00, 4:00, 6:50, 9:40; Wed-Thu (12/27), 6:50, 9:40
***Juno:** Tue, 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:10, 9:50; Wed-Thu (12/27), 7:10, 9:50
***The Walker:** Fri, 4:20, 7:10; Sat-Sun, 1:20, 4:20, 7:10; Mon, 4:20, 7:10

GALAXY HIGHLAND 10 *North I-35 & Middle Fiskville, 467-7305.* No one under 18 will be allowed in the theatre on Friday and Saturday after 7pm without an adult.

***Aliens vs. Predator: Requiem:** Tue-Thu (12/27), 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Fri, 12:20, 2:35, 4:40, 7:10, 9:20, 11:30; Sat, 10:25am, 12:30, 2:35, 4:40, 7:10, 9:20, 11:30pm; Sun, 10:25am, 12:30, 2:35, 4:40, 7:10, 9:20pm; Mon-Thu (12/27), 12:30, 2:35, 4:40, 7:10, 9:20
***Charlie Wilson's War:** Fri, 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40, 11:55; Sat, 10:15am, 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40, 11:55pm; Sun, 10:15am, 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40pm; Mon-Thu (12/27), 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40
Enchanted: Sat-Sun, 10:05am
The Golden Compass: Fri, 12:00, 2:00, 2:30, 4:30, 5:00, 7:00, 7:30, 9:30, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 11:30am, 12:00, 2:00, 2:30, 4:30, 5:00, 7:00, 7:30, 9:30, 10:00pm; Mon-Thu (12/27), 12:00, 2:00, 2:30, 4:30, 5:00, 7:00, 7:30, 9:30, 10:00
***The Great Debaters:** Tue-Thu (12/27), 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
***I Am Legend:** Fri, 12:00, 2:00, 2:30, 4:30, 5:00, 7:00, 7:30, 9:30, 10:00, 11:59; Sat, 11:30am, 12:00, 2:00, 2:30, 4:30, 5:00, 7:00, 7:30, 9:30, 10:00, 11:59pm; Sun, 11:30am, 12:00, 2:00, 2:30, 4:30, 5:00, 7:00, 7:30, 9:30, 10:00pm; Mon-Thu (12/27), 12:00, 2:00, 2:30, 4:30, 5:00, 7:00, 7:30, 9:30, 10:00
***National Treasure: Book of Secrets:** Fri, 1:45, 2:15, 4:30, 5:00, 7:15, 7:45, 10:00, 10:30, 11:45; Sat, 11:00am, 1:45, 2:15, 4:30, 5:00, 7:15, 7:45, 10:00, 10:30, 11:45pm; Sun, 11:00am, 1:45, 2:15, 4:30, 5:00, 7:15, 7:45, 10:00, 10:30pm; Mon-Thu (12/27), 1:45, 2:15, 4:30, 5:00, 7:15, 7:45, 10:00, 10:30
Nutcracker: Sat-Sun, 2:00, 5:00; Mon, 2:00pm
***P.S. I Love You:** 1:40, 4:25, 7:10, 9:55
***Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story:** Fri, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50, 11:59; Sat, 10:50am, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50, 11:59pm; Sun, 10:50am, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50pm; Mon-Thu (12/27), 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
***The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep:** Tue-Thu (12/27), 2:05, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

GATEWAY THEATRE *9700 Stonelake, between Capital of Texas Highway and Highway 183 in the Gateway shopping center, 416-5700 x3808.* Call theatre for showtimes Tuesday, Dec. 25, through Thursday, Dec. 27.

Alvin and the Chipmunks: Fri-Sun, 12:00, 2:20, 4:55, 7:35, 9:50; Mon, 12:00, 2:20, 4:55, 7:35
***Charlie Wilson's War:** Fri-Sun, 11:15am, 11:45, 1:40, 2:10, 4:05, 4:45, 6:40, 7:10, 9:25, 10:05pm; Mon, 11:15am, 11:45, 1:40, 2:10, 4:05, 4:45, 6:40, 7:10pm
Enchanted: Fri-Sun, 11:25am, 2:05, 4:35, 7:05, 9:35pm; Mon, 11:25am, 2:05, 4:35, 7:05pm
The Golden Compass: Fri, 2:25, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20; Sat, 11:55am, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20pm; Sun, 2:25, 5:00, 7:40pm; Mon, 2:25, 5:00
***The Golden Compass* (open captioned):** Fri, 11:55am; Sat, 2:25pm; Sun, 11:55am, 10:20pm; Mon, 11:55am, 7:40pm
***I Am Legend:** Fri-Sun, 10:40am, 11:35, 12:05, 1:05, 2:05, 2:35, 3:30, 4:30, 5:10, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:35pm; Mon, 10:40am, 11:35, 12:05, 1:05, 2:05, 2:35, 3:30, 4:30, 5:10, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00pm
***National Treasure: Book of Secrets:** Fri-Sun, 11:00am, 11:30, 1:55, 3:00, 4:50, 6:45, 7:45, 9:40, 10:40pm; Mon, 11:00am, 11:30, 1:55, 3:00, 4:50, 6:45, 7:45pm
***National Treasure: Book of Secrets* (in DLP digital):** Fri-Sun, 10:30am, 1:25, 4:20, 7:15, 10:10pm; Mon, 10:30am, 1:25, 4:20, 7:15pm
***P.S. I Love You:** Fri-Sun, 11:10am, 2:15, 5:05, 7:55, 10:45pm; Mon, 11:10am, 2:15, 5:05, 7:55pm
***Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street:** Fri-Sun, 11:20am, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:15pm; Mon, 11:20am, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20pm
***Walk Hard

both semisubtle comedy and obvious, clichéd advice. LaGravenese doesn't help matters with a selectively corny soundtrack – the Pogues, James Blunt, Paolo Nutini – but at least he doesn't stoop to Van Morrison. – *Marc Savlov*
★½ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

SWEENEY TODD: THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET

D: Tim Burton; with Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham Carter, Alan Rickman, Timothy Spall, Sacha Baron Cohen, Jamie Campbell Bower, Laura Michelle Kelly, Jayne Wisener. (R, 117 min.)

There are a few reasons why you'd probably want to steer clear of Sweeney Todd (Depp). For one, it's 6 to 5 and pick 'em whether or not he'll slice your throat open with a straight razor, leaving you to gasp for life while spurting blood all over his newly refurbished barber's chair. Two, if he does kill you, most likely he's going to hand your corpse over to loopy, pasty-faced restaurateur Mrs. Lovett (Bonham Carter) so she can cook it into a meat pie. And three, even if you do manage to escape being turned into supper, there's no escaping the slow death by monotony you'll experience after spending a few days in his company. Like some religious fanatic, Todd is a sounding bell playing the same note over and over again, ad nauseam: "Revenge, revenge, revenge," he crows. Which may sound more exciting than, say, "latkes, latkes, latkes," but watching Burton's adaptation of Stephen Sondheim's 1979 stage musical, I was struck by just how dull violent retribution can be when it's all someone ever talks (or, in this case, sings) about. The focus of Todd's bloody obsession is Judge Turpin (Rickman), a sinister megalomaniac who 15 years earlier stole Todd's wife and young daughter and sent him to prison in Australia. Now back in London (which, he sings, is a "hole in the world/like a great black pit/and the vermin of the world/inhabit it"), Todd is only interested in two things: reopening his shop and slicing Turpin into little bits. After that? Retirement, I suppose, or vocal lessons.

Burton's gorgeously grim film (his sixth with Depp) is loyal to Sondheim's original, both in spirit and structure; it's dark and gothic and drenched in blood, and it forgoes excessive dialogue in the name of getting quickly to the next murky, malevolent, yet strangely forgettable tune. Poor Depp, though, isn't up to the challenge of a musical. He may look menacing with his ivory skin and flashing eyes, but he sings like he's three drinks into a night at the local karaoke bar. Which is a problem because Todd is constantly singing – to Lovett, to Turpin, to London, even to his razors. So by the time he gets that long-wished-for shot at restitution, I didn't care anymore if he succeeded or not, so long as he stopped singing about it. By that point I'd already decided life would be better inside a quiet meat pie. – *Josh Rosenblatt*
★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Barton Creek Square, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

TAARE ZAMEEN PAR

D: Aamir Khan; with Khan, Darsheel Safary. (NR, 162 min., subtitled)

Not reviewed at press time. In this new Bollywood picture, the director also plays the leading role in a story about the teacher of a dyslexic child. – *Marjorie Baumgarten*
Tinseltown South

WALK HARD: THE DEWEY COX STORY

D: Jake Kasdan; with John C. Reilly, Jenna Fischer, Kristen Wiig, Tim Meadows, Chris Parnell, Matt Besser, David Krumholtz, Jack Black, Paul Rudd, Jason Schwartzman, Harold Ramis, Martin Starr, John Michael Higgins. (R, 96 min.)

The creative forces behind *Walk Hard* adhere to one simple rule: If it's funny once, it'll be funny 10 times over. And throughout this absurdist spin on musical biopics, the good news is that sometimes they're right. It is funny again. And again. And again. But conversely, sometimes it isn't. Taking cues very specifically from *Ray* and *Walk the Line*, this film spans 70 years in the life of its hero, the fictional music legend Dewey Cox (Reilly). As a child in rural Alabama, Dewey accidentally slices his older brother in two with a machete. This leads him to take up music, run off

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE CINEMA
DINNER - DRINKS - MOVIES - EVENTS

All week long at the Alamo Ritz Theatre, it's
HIGH FOR THE HOLIDAYS
featuring:
(GOOD) FRIDAY
FRIDAY with all profanity dubbed out!
HAROLD & KUMAR
with all-you-can-eat burgers!
DARK SIDE OF THE RAINBOW
Pink Floyd + The Wizard of Oz!
BEERFEST
w/ beerlympics before the movie!
REEFER MADNESS
the movie musical sing-along!

ALAMO RITZ THEATRE - 320 E 6TH ST

THU, DEC 20	I AM LEGEND ◆				430	720	955
	THE CHRISTMAS POPS SINGALONG					700	945
	DARK SIDE OF THE RAINBOW					MIDNIGHT	
	TERROR THURS: SILENT NIGHT DEADLY NIGHT					MIDNIGHT	
FRI, DEC 21	I AM LEGEND ◆	1145	215	445	725	930	MIDNIGHT
	I'M NOT THERE						350
	LARS & THE REAL GIRL						700
	MASTER PANCAKE: HOME ALONE					945	MIDNIGHT
SAT, DEC 22	LARS & THE REAL GIRL					1100	125 700
	I AM LEGEND ◆	1145	215	445	725	930	MIDNIGHT
	I'M NOT THERE						350
	MASTER PANCAKE: HOME ALONE					945	MIDNIGHT
SUN, DEC 23	LARS & THE REAL GIRL						1100 125
	I AM LEGEND ◆	1145	215	445	725	955	
	I'M NOT THERE						350
	BEERFEST w/ BEERLYMPICS!						700
	DARK SIDE OF THE RAINBOW						1000
MON, DEC 25	LARS & THE REAL GIRL					1100	125
	I AM LEGEND ◆	1145	215	445	725	955	
	I'M NOT THERE						350
	HAROLD & KUMAR w/ ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT Mini Burgers						700
	THE MONKEES: HEAD						1000
TUES, DEC 25	I'M NOT THERE						350
	I AM LEGEND ◆				445	725	955
	BEERFEST w/ BEERLYMPICS!						700
	DARK SIDE OF THE RAINBOW						1000
WEDS, DEC 26	LARS & THE REAL GIRL					1100	125
	I AM LEGEND ◆	1145	215	445	725	955	
	I'M NOT THERE						350
	BEERFEST w/ BEERLYMPICS!						700
	(GOOD) FRIDAY: FRIDAY w/ NO PROFANITY!						945
	DARK SIDE OF THE RAINBOW					MIDNIGHT	
	FREE WEIRD WEDS: MAGIC CHRISTMAS TREE					MIDNIGHT	
THU, DEC 27	LARS & THE REAL GIRL					1100	125
	I AM LEGEND ◆	1145	215	445	725	955	
	I'M NOT THERE						350
	HAROLD & KUMAR w/ ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT Mini Burgers						700
	THE REEFER MADNESS SINGALONG						945
	DARK SIDE OF THE RAINBOW					MIDNIGHT	
	TERROR THURS: DEAD KIDS					MIDNIGHT	

SOUTH LAMAR - 1120 SOUTH LAMAR BLVD

JUNO ◆	1100*	410	700	925	1145	
JUNO ◆		130*	530	800	1030	
NATIONAL TREASURE ◆		1110*	215*	715	1015	
NO COUNTRY OLD MEN		1115*	445	735	1010	
SWEENEY TODD ◆	1230*	330	700*	730	1035	
THE KITE RUNNER ◆		1240*	335	705	1000	
ENCHANTED		1105*	140*	420*		
THE ORPHANAGE ◆		MIDNIGHT		(Thurs)		
EMMET OTTERS JUGG BAND		NOON		(Sat)		

VILLAGE - ANDERSON LANE WEST OF BURNET

CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR ◆	1100*	135*	420	720	1000	
THE GOLDEN COMPASS		110*	415	725	1020	
WALK HARD ◆	1115*	140*	410	705	950	MIDNIGHT*
I AM LEGEND ◆	115*	405	700	945	MIDNIGHT*	
ROCKY HORROR		MIDNIGHT		(Sat)		

$6.00 MATINEES BEFORE 6 PM, $6.00 STUDENTS, SENIORS, KIDS OVER 6 W/ PARENTS
SHOWS WITH * SAT, SUN, TUES ONLY · ◆ NO PASSES - GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

ALL 3 LOCATIONS NOW BOOKING HOLIDAY PARTIES
DOWNTOWN, VILLAGE & SOUTH LAMAR 407-9531

HIGH FOR THE HOLIDAYS!
SUN 23rd - FRI 28th - RITZ
476-1320 - WWW.ORIGINALALAMO.COM - NO INFANTS
18 & UP ALL SHOWS - BEST THEATER IN AUSTIN!

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE CINEMA
DINNER • DRINKS • MOVIES • EVENTS
LAKECREEK SHOWTIMES
(183 & LAKECREEK PARKWAY)
WALK HARD
(12:45 3:30 7:15 9:55) 10:10 10:15
I AM LEGEND
(12:50 12:40 3:00 3:55) 7:55 7:30 10:00 10:25
THE GOLDEN COMPASS
(12:30 3:40) 7:35 10:25
NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN
(12:00 3:15) 7:00 (10:05)
AUGUST RUSH
(12:05 3:05)
AMERICAN GANGSTER
(11:45 3:10) (7:05) (10:30)
[ ] MATINEE
• = NO SHOW FRI
// = NO SHOW THUR
ALL TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

AVPR
& THE GREAT DEBATERS
OPEN Christmas Day
go to www.drafthouse.com for showtime changes on Christmas Day

TROMATIC THURSDAYS
SLAUGHTER PARTY — Thur DEC 20th 10PM
DR. HACKENSTEIN — Thur DEC 27th 10PM
MORE INFO @ DRAFTHOUSE.COM

ALAMO GIFT CARDS
GIVE THE GIFT OF DINNER AND A MOVIE
BABY DAY EVERY TUESDAY FIRST SHOW OF EACH FILM INFANTS ARE WELCOME
TO PLAN YOUR NEXT PRIVATE PARTY OR CORPORATE EVENT
CALL TEIGHLOR (512) 219-7802
ONLINE TICKETS AND UPDATES AT WWW.DRAFTHOUSE.COM
DIGITAL SOUND! ALL SHOWS 18 & UP UNLESS WITH PARENT OR GUARDIAN
SHOWS BEFORE 6PM $4.25 · NO PASSES
ALL SHOWS MONDAY $4.25 · NO PARTS OR CHILDREN UNDER 6 (EXCEPT BABY DAY!)

LANDMARK'S DOBIE
21st & Guadalupe • (512) 472-FILM
FREE PARKING IN THE DOBIE GARAGE
All Shows $6.00 with college I.D.
www.LandmarkTheatres.com

INTO THE WILD
Fri: (4:00) 6:50, 9:40; Sat, Sun, Tue: (1:00, 4:00) 6:50, 9:40; Mon: 6:50; Wed, Thur: 6:50, 9:40

JUNO
Tue: (12:30, 2:45, 5:00) 7:10, 9:50; Wed, Thur: 7:10, 9:50

THE WALKER
Fri: (4:20) 7:10; Sat/Sun: (1:20, 4:20) 7:10; Mon: 7:10

THE DARJEELING LIMITED
Fri: (4:30) 7:20, 10:10; Sat, Sun, Tue: (1:30, 4:30) 7:20, 10:10; Mon: 7:20; Wed, Thur: 7:20, 10:10

I'M NOT THERE
Fri: (4:10) 7:00, 9:50; Sat/Sun: (1:10, 4:10) 7:00, 9:50; Mon, Wed, Thur: 7:00; Tue: (1:10) 7:00

BEFORE THE DEVIL KNOWS YOU'RE DEAD
Fri–Sun, Wed–Thur: 10:00; Tue: (4:10) 10:00; Mon: No Shows

SHOWTIMES FOR FRI, DEC. 21 – THUR, DEC. 27
Bargain Showtimes in ( )
©2007 LTC

with his high school girlfriend (Wiig) and become a star. The story follows a rise-fall-and-rise-again structure as Dewey meets the love of his life (Fischer), develops multiple drug addictions, loses his love, finds her again, and along the way falls prey to every generational music trend in the book. Whether traveling to India with the Beatles, writing protest songs, or hosting a variety show, Dewey manages to enact all the rock & roll clichés. And then some. Simultaneously dumb and enjoyable, the silliness manages at times to be both wonderful and cringe-worthy. In the end, Reilly's oblivious swagger successfully carries much of the film. So while there were stretches without laughter, I was always seduced back into the fun thanks both to Reilly's inspired performance and the creative audacity of co-writer/producer Judd Apatow (*Superbad*) and co-writer/director Kasdan (*Orange County*). Aside from Reilly, two clear stars emerge: the wardrobe and the music. The costumes (by Debra McGuire) are both oddly authentic and absurd. Similarly, the songs (written by a slew of artists, including Reilly, Apatow, and Kasdan) are genuine, ridiculous, and often very funny. With cameos by everyone from Jack White, Ghostface Killah, Lyle Lovett, and the Temptations, the film is also a veritable who's who from Apatow's unofficial comedy troupe. In this case, that includes Starr (*Knocked Up*) and Rudd (who portrays John Lennon in one of the movie's funniest scenes – where Schwartzman's Ringo Starr is truly inspired). And when the penis jokes linger (which is often), it's apparent that the sharp comic forces behind this epic are simply a couple of juvenile men who think it's hilarious to show a man's penis on screen just for the sake of itself. But the embarrassing truth is that, well, sometimes it is. – *Toddy Burton*
★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

THE WALKER

D: Paul Schrader; with Woody Harrelson, Kristin Scott Thomas, Lauren Bacall, Ned Beatty, Moritz Bleibtreu, Mary Beth Hurt, Lily Tomlin, Willem Dafoe, William Hope. (R, 108 min.)

Armed with a wardrobe of perfectly tailored suits, a carefully trimmed mustache, and a collection of impeccable bons mots that ooze from his mouth in waves of Virginia syrup, Carter Page III (Harrelson) is a Southern Oscar Wilde let loose in present-day Washington, D.C. His role in life is to entertain the bored wives of politicians with gossip and clever character assassinations while they play canasta, and like any high-society dandy worth the name, he's always ready with a damaging quip. "The wheel is turning," he says of one less-than-intelligent senator, "but the hamster is dead." Page's life is an easy mixture of cufflinks, afternoon sea breezes, and distant gentility, until the murder of a local financier – who was also the illicit lover of his friend and senator's wife Lynn Lockner (Thomas) – puts Page's homosexuality and left-wing political leanings on the radar of an ambitious and conservative Justice Department lawyer deliciously named Mungo Tenant (a suitably salivating Hope). On the surface, *The Walker* is about Page's private investigation into the murder and his attempt to clear his name, but in reality the film is an excoriation of Mungo – or, more to the point, all the Mungos who have made names for themselves over the last six years by wallowing in the scorched-earth environment of revenge and secrecy that has come to define George W. Bush's Washington. Writer/director Schrader makes his less-than-amicable feelings about the current administration clear, but considering his list of writing credits – which includes *Taxi Driver*, *Raging Bull*, and *Affliction* – I can't help wondering how all that obvious malice and disillusion got ground down into a script as inoffensive as *The Walker*. Where's all the grim psychological probing we've come to know and love? Where are the random bursts of graphic violence and bloody noses? How great would it have been to see Mungo on the receiving end of a Jake La Motta-style thumping? As it stands, despite its juicy subject matter – sex, murder, scandal, adultery, Republicans – *The Walker* is guilty of the most mortal of all movie sins: It's dull. Even a violent, late-night near-blinding in the back room of a bar fails to get the blood moving. It's as if Schrader, like his hero, has retreated behind a wall of verbal sophistication and moral indifference as a way of protecting himself from a culture that's become too cruel and cynical to abide. – *Josh Rosenblatt*
★★ Dobie

THE WATER HORSE: LEGEND OF THE DEEP

D: Jay Russell; with Alex Etel, Emily Watson, Ben Chaplin, David Morrissey, Priyanka Xi, Marshall Napier, Brian Cox. (PG, 111 min.)

A family film in the best sense, *Water Horse* plays like a cross between a World War II-era *Boy's Own* adventure and *Baby: Secret of the Lost Legend*, minus the soppy treacle of the latter but with just the right amount of RAF fighter flybys to qualify it as a rather ripping yarn, indeed. There's even an English bulldog named Churchill (always a plus). Set on the coast of Scotland, the ingratiatingly plucky Etel (*Millions*) plays Angus, a steadfast young dreamer whose mother and sister tend to Lord Something-or-Other's sprawling country estate, while he skitters around the tide pools digging up neat stuff. Unable to swim and thus simultaneously entranced and terrified of the ocean that laps virtually at his doorstep, Angus is a lad without a dad and pensive, as well. (Though it's not dwelled upon, brief mention is made of his father, a sailor, having been killed in the war.) The discovery of a barnacle-encrusted egg changes all this, however. The hatching of the egg reveals the titular "water horse," aka the Loch Ness Beastie, and coincides with the arrival of a pair of dueling surrogate father figures for Angus. One is the dashing British Regiment Capt. Hamilton (Morrissey), and the other is the charming scruff of new handyman Lewis (Chaplin). Then, too, there's the problem of Angus' ravenously vegan aqua pet, which grows to adulthood quicker than Ray Harryhausen's "Ymir" from *20 Million Miles to Earth* and, once out of the manor and into the Loch, rapidly draws the attention of Capt. Hamilton and his overeager artillery emplacements. With its *Shrek*y ears and newborn, puggy snufflings, the water horse is extremely – and unthreateningly, to younger members – well designed, via CGI and more tactile effects work. Despite the title, this is Etel's film all the way, however. His expressive, peaches-and-cream face, overhung by a frequently furrowed brow, is simply a bang-on depiction of childhood anxiety. Life during wartime is different for children, who can often manage to dream their way past dark reality into more interesting (if not necessarily safer) fantasy worlds. Angus, lucky lad, doesn't even need to do that. *(Opens Tuesday, Dec. 25.)* – *Marc Savlov*
★★★ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

The Walker

First Runs

***Full-length reviews available online at austinchronicle.com. Dates at end of reviews indicate original publication date.**

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS

D: Tim Hill; with Jason Lee, David Cross, Cameron Richardson, Jane Lynch; with the voices of Justin Long, Matthew Gray Gubler, Jesse McCartney. (PG, 92 min.)

What's it all about, Alvin? Apparently it's about rebranding a musty old comic conceit for a whole new generation of proto-Willards. The adenoidal animated vermin of Ross Bagdasarian Sr. and Jr. have arrived via CGI in this live-action updating/companion to the Bagdasarian family's lengthy *rodentia comicus*-related history, the pinnacle of which remains 1958's holiday novelty tune "The Chipmunk Song (Christmas Don't Be Late)." Hill's Chipmunk tale is a strictly by-the-numbers affair, aimed in the most generic direction conceivable. Lee plays Dave, a well-intentioned but bumbling songwriter aided and abetted in life and love (and icky-sweet pop music) by My Three Chipmunks. *Mr. Show*'s Cross is a duplicitous record mogul, who plays nice with Dave while conniving behind his back (boo!), and Richardson is the mutant-model-photographer-chick-thing Dave's all gooey on. Will true love prevail? Will Dave grow a backbone (and some real songwriting talent)? They shoot rodents, don't they? *(12/14/2007)* – *Marc Savlov*
★ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

AMERICAN GANGSTER

D: Ridley Scott; with Denzel Washington, Russell Crowe, Josh Brolin, Ruby Dee, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Cuba Gooding Jr., Ted Levine, Armand Assante, John Hawkes, Roger Guenveur Smith, Clarence Williams III, RZA, Carla Gugino, Joe Morton, Common. (R, 157 min.)

Based on Mark Jacobson's *New York* magazine article, *American Gangster* does a crackerjack job at nailing the look and feel of New York City's bad old days, when Mayors Lindsay and Beame (mis-)ruled over the Manhattan canyons and Bronx tenements aided and abetted by a police department riddled with more internal corruption and outer rot than a smack-head's corpse. At the height of the Vietnam War, it was Frank Lucas (a sizzling, ferocious Washington) who figured out a whole new angle on the heroin trade and built an empire. Only when a sudden fit of pimpy ostentation hit did he come to the attention of Jersey cop Richie Roberts (Crowe). Roberts is uniformly loathed and scorned by the NYPD's dirty cops (led by a great Brolin), who view him as a dupe for not going with the bribery flow. Crowe has rarely been better, and the same goes for director Scott. *(11/02/2007)* – *Marc Savlov*
★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Barton Creek Square, Tinseltown South

ATONEMENT

D: Joe Wright; with Keira Knightley, James McAvoy, Saoirse Ronan, Romola Garai, Vanessa Redgrave, Benedict Cumberbatch, Brenda Blethyn, Juno Temple, Daniel Mays. (R, 130 min.)

Imagination typically should be encouraged in children, but an excess of it leads to tragedy in this more than worthy adaptation of Ian McEwan's novel. Thirteen-year-old Briony (the wonderfully unnerving novice Ronan) is indulged, but also largely ignored, by her family, which includes her headstrong 19-year-old sister Cecilia (Knightley, seductively husky, wincingly angular). One day in 1935, Briony witnesses a bewildering act that involves Cecilia and the housekeeper's son, Robbie (McAvoy). Only later does she realize how one person's vantage, one person's *truth*, doesn't always square with another's. But that epiphany doesn't arrive until the film's second of three sections, when a now-18-year-old Briony (Garai) attempts to write a novelization of that day in 1935. (The film's epilogue takes place in modern times.) *Atonement* is a work consumed with the nature of storytelling and the moral responsibility of the storyteller. The film is not quite as brutalizing as McEwan's brilliant source novel, but it ravishes nonetheless in its grand exploration of the sins of the daughter and a lifetime spent making reparations. *(12/14/2007)* – *Kimberley Jones*
★★★★ Arbor, Tinseltown North

AUGUST RUSH

D: Kirsten Sheridan; with Freddie Highmore, Keri Russell, Jonathan Rhys Meyers, Terrence Howard, Robin Williams, William Sadler, Leon G. Thomas III, Jamia Simone Nash. (PG, 104 min.)

August Rush is a rather prosaic, oddly anxious, contemporary take on Dickens' *Oliver Twist*, with Williams – in nasty-man twee mode, a newish one for him – thrown in for bad measure. Highmore's parents are ably essayed by Russell and Rhys Meyers, one a classical cellist destined for greatness with the New York Philharmonic, the other a scruffy Irish ne'er-do-well who fronts a vaguely Poguesy band of rockers. After spending a magical night coupling on a rooftop overlooking Manhattan's Washington Square Arch, they promptly go their separate ways. Neither one realizes that, via a quick (if narratively convenient) switcheroo on the part of Russell's overprotective dad, they've sown the seed of August Rush. Will his parents, through a magical, utterly unlikely yet strangely compelling turn of fate, come running once they hear the longing in their little maestro's edgily hip, borderline Ani DiFrancoid slap-strumming? Oh ho! Far be it from me to state the obvious. *(11/23/2007)* – *Marc Savlov*
★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Barton Creek Square, CM Round Rock

AWAKE

D: Joby Harold; with Jessica Alba, Hayden Christensen, Terrence Howard, Lena Olin, Sam Robards, Fisher Stevens, Georgina Chapman. (R, 78 min.)

In *Awake*, the debut feature from screenwriter Harold, billionaire Wall Streeter Clay Beresford (Christensen) undergoes a heart transplant without actually going all the way under. What he overhears while waiting for the attending physician to arrive is

possibly worse than anything yet to come. While this very high-concept story may have wowed 'em in the pitch meeting, it fizzles on screen, with Clay reduced to having out-of-body experiences in order to uncover the skein of troubling coincidences that brought him to this point. I suspect there's a corker of a *Columbo* episode tucked away behind Christensen's oh-dear-God-i-can-feel-the-scalpel hysterics, but it's shrouded in a pall of such outrageous medical malfeasance – not to mention familial greed, larceny, and the fact that Peter Falk is no longer with us – that you wonder why this rich kid didn't just opt for a black-market heart as his mother had suggested. *(12/07/2007)* *– Marc Savlov*
★½ Tinseltown South

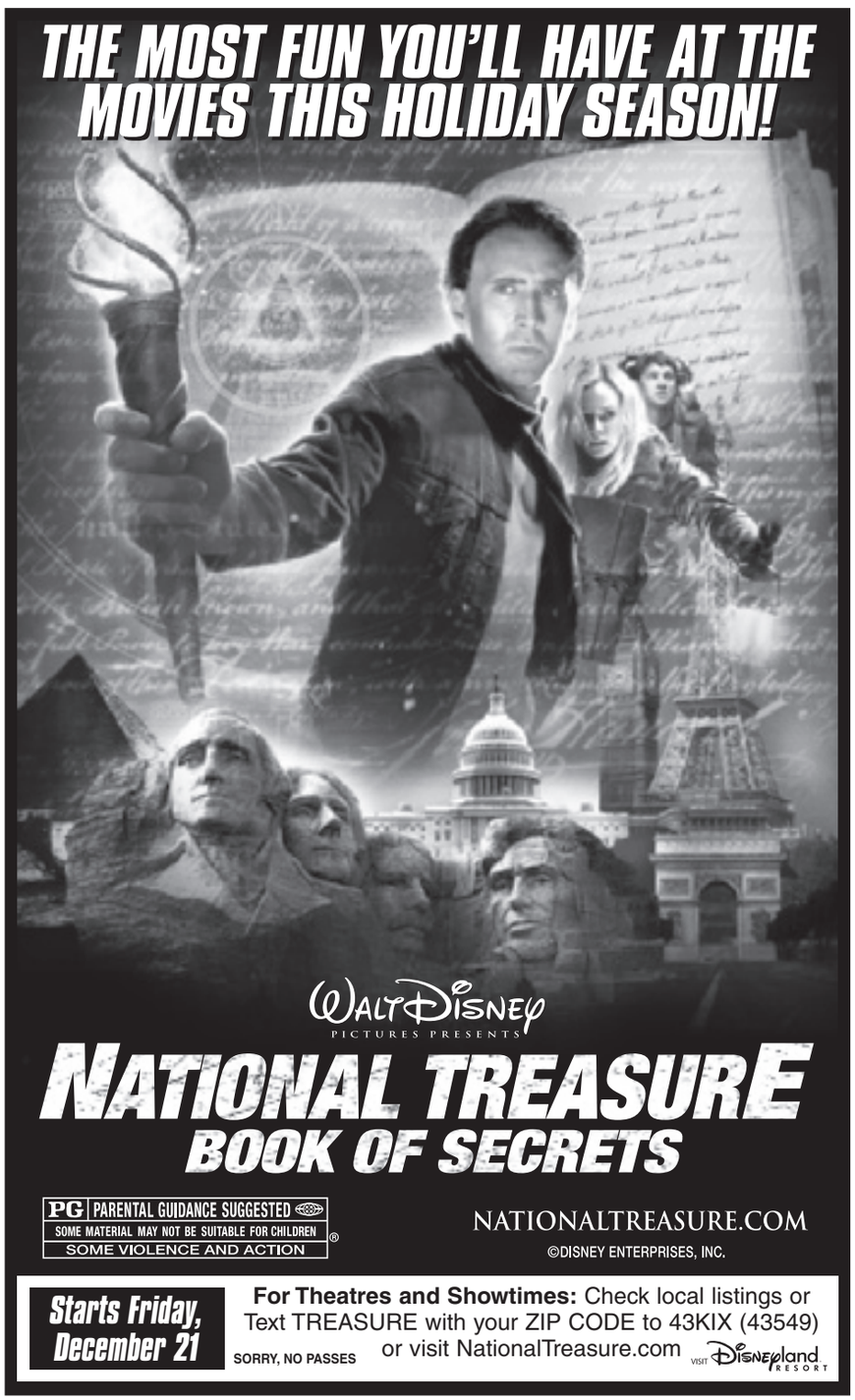
BEE MOVIE

D: Steve Hickner, Simon J. Smith; with the voices of Jerry Seinfeld, Renée Zellweger, Matthew Broderick, Patrick Warburton, John Goodman, Chris Rock, Kathy Bates, Barry Levinson, Oprah Winfrey, Rip Torn, Larry King. (PG, 90 min.)

Bee Movie is an agreeable though tame animated picture. Seinfeld plays Barry B. Benson, a bee who, having just graduated from college (with "perfect grades – all Bs"), must choose a career. Visually, *Bee Movie* never fully capitalizes on the reality-bending possibilities of the animated form. The story zips along at a fast clip so that the film's nifty and not-so-nifty moments are swept along in its current, including some pertinent though gentle messages about the ecological balance of the universe. *Bee Movie* works best when it sticks to the insect world; when Barry leaves the hive with the Pollen Jocks and breaks the cardinal rule of beedom by speaking to humans, the film becomes more earthbound and prosaic. No nectar of the gods this, but we can still be thankful that *Bee Movie* is a sweet morsel that's devoid of any jokes about bee farts and poop. *(11/02/2007)* *– Marjorie Baumgarten*
★★½ Movies 8, Tinseltown South

Check film listings online for full-length reviews, up-to-date showtimes, archives, and more!

austinchronicle.com/film



BEFORE THE DEVIL KNOWS YOU'RE DEAD

D: Sidney Lumet; with Philip Seymour Hoffman, Ethan Hawke, Albert Finney, Marisa Tomei, Rosemary Harris, Michael Shannon, Amy Ryan. (R, 116 min.)

Lumet is 83 years old now, but the storyline in *Before the Devil Knows You're Dead* carries both the rhythms of youthful vanity – and its attendant fearlessness – and the dead-on, relentless morality of an Old Testament Hollywood hand. This is one of those films where the less you know going in, the better time you'll likely have, but the bare bones go like this: Two brothers, Hank (Hawke) and Andy (Hoffman) Hanson, plot the robbery of a jewelry story to alleviate their individual financial woes. This misguided robbery goes horrifically wrong and sets off a chain reaction of cascading disasters for not only the brothers Hanson but, ultimately, for the entire Hanson family. The situation doesn't just bomb; it goes all-out nuclear. Meanwhile the performances of the two leads, as well as Finney, Tomei, and the others, are downright thrilling. *(11/09/2007)* – *Marc Savlov*

★★★★ Barton Creek Square, Dobie

BEOWULF

D: Robert Zemeckis; with Ray Winstone, Anthony Hopkins, Robin Wright Penn, Brendan Gleeson, Crispin Glover, Angelina Jolie, John Malkovich. (PG-13, 115 min.)

The irony inherent in using 21st century motion-control technology to tell a tale approximately 1,400 years old is just one of many bizarrely entertaining aspects of *Beowulf*. High school English teachers may breathe a collective sigh of relief: Although this version of *Beowulf* (the script, ricocheting between thrilling, heroic, and hilarious, is by Neil Gaiman and Roger Avary) does take some liberties, it's as faithful to the extant version as it needs to be. There's no doubt *Beowulf* is crackerjack popcorn entertainment. The 3-D effects are jaw-droppingly immersive and realistic, but thanks to the witty, zippy script, they never detract from the story. The sticking point, for many people, will be Zemeckis' reliance on the imperfect technique of motion-control animation, which still exhibits a certain *Shrek*iness when it comes to such complex, expressive textures as the human face. Then again, the technique allows one hell of a kickass dragon. *(11/16/2007)* – *Marc Savlov*

★★★ Metropolitan

THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM

D: Paul Greengrass; with Matt Damon, Julia Stiles, David Strathairn, Scott Glenn, Paddy Considine, Edgar Ramirez, Albert Finney, Joan Allen. (PG-13, 111 min.)

Conventional wisdom states that by the third movie in any series, lead characters have long since given up any psychological relevance, and plots have become mere retreads. Which makes *The Bourne Ultimatum* – the third in the Robert Ludlum-penned series about Jason Bourne (Damon), the rogue CIA spook with impossibly broad shoulders and the memory of a goldfish – such an achievement. Director Greengrass bests his own excellent *The Bourne Supremacy*, creating a true action thriller that's far closer to art than it probably has any right to be. Episode three finds Bourne still struggling to reconstruct his identity while bringing down elaborate conspiracies percolating among the higher-ups in the American intelligence community. He doesn't know his real name; he can't remember why he is where he is or why he does what he does. And – unkindest cut of all! – he can't remember that he used to schtup Julia Stiles. *(08/03/2007)* – *Josh Rosenblatt*

★★★½ Movies 8

Emmet Otter's Jug Bad Chrimstmas: Uncut

***Emmet Otter's Jug-Band Christmas:* Uncut** *D: Jim Henson; with Henson, Jerry Nelson, Frank Oz, Marilyn Sokol, Dave Goelz, Richard Hunt, Eren Ozker, Gretchen Fox. (NR, 60 min.)* **Kids Club.** This rare, uncut version contains all the footage from both pre-existing versions (the original HBO broadcast and the DVD/home-video version) of the Henson family charmer. It's presented at the Alamo thanks to the Jim Henson Legacy. @Alamo Drafthouse South, Saturday, noon; free.

THE DARJEELING LIMITED

D: Wes Anderson; with Owen Wilson, Adrien Brody, Jason Schwartzman, Anjelica Huston, Amara Karan, Wally Wolodarsky, Bill Murray, Irfan Khan. (R, 91 min.)

With his fifth feature film, Anderson boards another train of ironic whimsy, although this time the train is quite literal. An aura of preciousness remains as the filmmaker again pairs his stylized images and storytelling with characters and a plot that resist neat categorizations, twins narrative events with telling pieces of music, and searches for emotional connections among ironically detached characters. Brothers Francis (Wilson), Peter (Brody), and Jack (Schwartzman) Whitman, who have been apart since their father's death a year ago, embark on a train ride through India as something of a reunion tour and spiritual journey. Somewhere near the end of the journey is their aloof mother (Huston), a nun in a Himalayan outpost. Like the Whitman Sampler they are, each brother is marked by a unique bundle of quirky traits. In large measure, the film is a basic road picture, enhanced by compelling characters and atmosphere but reluctant to really go anywhere. *(10/12/2007)* – *Marjorie Baumgarten*

★★★ Dobie

ENCHANTED

D: Kevin Lima; with Amy Adams, Patrick Dempsey, James Marsden, Susan Sarandon, Timothy Spall, Rachel Covey, Idina Menzel. (PG, 107 min.)

It's difficult to describe the mixture of romance, dry satire, and musical comedy that is the new Disney film *Enchanted*. But one thing's for certain: Adams (*Junebug*) is its heart and soul. Her ability to play wild-eyed innocence with a biting comic edge never disappoints. And as Giselle, she's perfectly cast as an amalgam of every fairy-tale maiden. The film begins in an all-too-familiar animated wonderland. Giselle is an innocent forest-dwelling babe who sings with animals and dreams of finding her true love before she is cast out by a jealous queen (Sarandon) and lands in the center of Times Square. What's more, she's no longer animated. Though writer Bill Kelly's script takes extreme liberties with plot development and never really leaves you guessing about who will get the girl, the jokes rarely miss, and the result is a refreshingly sardonic fairy tale. *(11/23/2007)* – *Toddy Burton*

★★★½ Alamo Drafthouse South, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

FRED CLAUS

D: David Dobkin; with Vince Vaughn, Paul Giamatti, John Michael Higgins, Miranda Richardson, Rachel Weisz, Kathy Bates, Chris "Ludacris" Bridges, Elizabeth Banks, Kevin Spacey. (PG, 115 min.)

How many laughs can one movie try to squeeze out of Vaughn being attacked by elves? Sadly, it's an awful lot. Vaughn plays Fred, the embittered older brother of the sainted (literally) Nicholas "Santa" Claus (Giamatti). Trading in jolly for neurotic, Giamatti's Santa possesses a self-deprecating everyman demeanor that makes him a brilliant actor. Meanwhile, Vaughn exploits a schtick that plays well with an ensemble (*Old School*) or in a supporting role (*Mr. & Mrs. Smith*) but cannot carry the comedy of an entire movie. Awash with amazingly talented actors, including Spacey as an efficiency expert, Higgins as a lovelorn elf, Richardson as Mrs. Claus, and Bates as Fred and Santa's mom, *Fred Claus* is sadly just an early lump of coal under the tree. *(11/09/2007)* – *Toddy Burton*

★ Barton Creek Square, CM Round Rock, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

THE GOLDEN COMPASS

D: Chris Weitz; with Nicole Kidman, Daniel Craig, Dakota Blue Richards, Ben Walker, Eva Green, Jim Carter, Tom Courtenay, Sam Elliott, Christopher Lee, Simon McBurney; with the voices of Freddie Highmore, Ian McKellen, Ian McShane, Kristin Scott Thomas, Kathy Bates. (PG-13, 113 min.)

Although *The Golden Compass* rejects the anti-organized-religion bent of the source material, British children's author Philip Pullman's *His Dark Materials* trilogy, the film interprets the novels' evil Magisterium – a society-controlling organization meant to stand in for the church (any church, really) – as something just as evil but more Nazi-inspired. The film charts the coming of age of Lyra Belacqua (Richards, a dirtied delight), a 12-year-old orphan living in a steampunk universe parallel to Oxford, England, whose fate – which has something to do with a holy, multiverse war yet to come – was long ago predicted by witches. Yup, it's that kind of world: witches, gyptians (seafaring gypsies), and, most delightfully, daemons, which are the animal manifestations of human souls. This is a terrifying world, in which trouble is visited regularly on small children. Writer/director Weitz far exceeds here, in vision and ambition, the perfectly passable entertainments of *American Pie* and *About a Boy*. The special effects are mostly spectacular. *(12/07/2007)* – *Kimberley Jones*

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

HITMAN

D: Xavier Gens; with Timothy Olyphant, Dougray Scott, Olga Kurylenko, Ulrich Thomsen, Robert Knepper, Henry Ian Cusick. (R, 100 min.)

To be sure, *Hitman* is a lousy film, but like the video game that inspired it, it's also great fun, drawing as it does on everything from James Bondian Eurotrash panache to Vin Diesel's moribund *XXX* character. Studio backchatter had been buzzing awhile back about credited director Gens – helmer of the French gorefest *Frontière(s)* – getting sacked in the interest of a less violent take on the assassination game via longtime editor Nicolas De Toth (*Live Free or Die Hard*). However, who directed what is about as fruitful a line of query as "What the hell?" since the entire movie – including its clichéd slo-mo ballistic ballets and Kurylenko's generous swallow-your-tongue, ooh-la-la-isms – is ripped off from its myriad genre predecessors (not least of which are *La Femme Nikita* and *The Professional*, both from *Hitman* co-producer Luc Besson). Still, *Hitman* is nothing if not a brain-dead pleasure bomb. *(11/23/2007)* – *Marc Savlov*

★ Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

Winner!

Katie Lopez, voted the winning member of Club CHRONICLE by Chronicle readers, receives

A **one-year membership** from our friends at Pure Austin

A **$250 gift certificate** to Zen Japanese Food Fast restaurants

A **$100 gift certificate** care of the Brain & Spine Center

Two **2008 SXSW wristbands** care of *The Austin Chronicle*

CHRONICLE austinchronicle.com/clubchron

I AM LEGEND

D: Francis Lawrence; with Will Smith, Alice Braga, Charlie Tahan, Salli Richardson, Willow Smith, Dash Mihok, Darrell Foster, April Grace. (PG-13, 100 min.)

Smith plays Robert Neville, a military immunologist who is the only real human left in New York. By day he wanders the city's empty avenues with his German shepherd, scavenging for food and gasoline; by night he barricades himself in his apartment with his rifle to wait for the living dead to break down the door. All this happens during the film's first 10 minutes, so initially I was optimistic. First of all, Lawrence's desolate Manhattan is a wonder to behold. And secondly, Smith's Neville is no unblinking model of action-film courage; he is terrified, lonely, and racked with guilt over his inability to save the lives of … well, anyone – a guilt he tries to assuage by working on a vaccine to save humanity, not to mention his own soul. Unfortunately, after the first 10 minutes, it's all downhill for *I Am Legend*, as the film descends into a monster-movie malaise starring a horde of balding CGI monsters. *(12/14/2007)* – *Josh Rosenblatt*
★½ Alamo Ritz, Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

I'M NOT THERE

D: Todd Haynes; with Christian Bale, Cate Blanchett, Marcus Carl Franklin, Richard Gere, Heath Ledger, Ben Whishaw, Charlotte Gainsbourg, Bruce Greenwood, Michelle Williams, Julianne Moore. (R, 135 min.)

"I don't belong to anybody," goes a verse from the titular song, which may very well be the point, or at least one of them, in a film that was "inspired by the many lives of Bob Dylan." Nobody here's named Bob, per se, but we get six incarnations that represent cycles in the life of the artist formally known as Robert Zimmerman. Physically, Blanchett bears the closest resemblance to Dylan, and she's great, of course, but the emotional guts of *I'm Not There* belong to Ledger and Gainsbourg. The only interlude that, if not fails, certainly flags, is Gere's sad-clown Billy the Kid. Haynes' piece doesn't always make sense (and goes on too long by 20 minutes), but, damn, it looks good – and feels good. After the Oscar "legitimacy" of *Far From Heaven*, Haynes could've burrowed deeper underground or sold out entirely; instead, he's created a dazzling hybrid. There's an undeniable thrill to watching something so experimental and yet totally accessible to those of us who speak only layman's Dylanese, and it's Haynes' warmest film yet. *(11/23/2007)* – *Kimberley Jones*
★★★½ Alamo Ritz, Dobie

INTO THE WILD

D: Sean Penn; with Emile Hirsch, Marcia Gay Harden, William Hurt, Jena Malone, Brian Dierker, Catherine Keener, Vince Vaughn, Kristen Stewart, Hal Holbrook. (R, 140 min.)

On April 28, 1992, a scraggly 24-year-old tramp and adventurer named Christopher McCandless walked into the Alaskan wilderness and was never heard from again. These events were brilliantly chronicled in 1996 by Jon Krakauer in his bestselling book *Into the Wild*, which was permeated by a sense of sadness and distance that left readers with the unsettling feeling that McCandless' haunted life and solitary death would remain forever unknowable. Unfortunately, an unknowable character makes for a stubborn film protagonist. And though Penn has conjured up a beautifully acted, visually bracing film that captures all the romantic energy and freedom of a life spent outside the bounds of society, somewhere along the way he misplaced that melancholy that made McCandless' story so devastating. Penn's McCandless (a wiry Hirsch) is a 21st century Hollywood hero, armed with a mouthful of self-help platitudes about following your heart and living life to the fullest but possessing precious little mystery. *(10/19/2007)* – *Josh Rosenblatt*
★★★ Dobie

THE KINGDOM

D: Peter Berg; with Jamie Foxx, Chris Cooper, Jennifer Garner, Jason Bateman, Ashraf Barhom, Ali Suliman, Jeremy Piven, Danny Huston. (R, 110 min.)

The Kingdom swiftly abandons the complications of geopolitics for the snappy showmanship and fuzzy logic of something resembling *CSI: Riyadh*. The Saudi Arabia-set story opens as a series of devastating bombs goes off within the American oil-workers' compound in Riyadh and FBI man Ronald Fleury (Foxx) and his staff are called in for duty. Berg stages some tremendous action sequences, though it is hard not to come to the ultimate conclusion that these scenes are the only point of the movie. Largely a crime-scene whodunit, *The Kingdom* culminates in to-the-death shoot-outs in which people wearing kaffiyehs die by the dozens while the little band of Americans eventually flies safely into the sunset. If the jingoism that permeates the latter half of the film does not sufficiently sour the experience of watching it, then the film's closing sentiments about the eternality of vengeance will surely do the trick. *(09/28/2007)* – *Marjorie Baumgarten*
★★½ Movies 8

LARS AND THE REAL GIRL

D: Craig Gillespie; with Ryan Gosling, Emily Mortimer, Paul Schneider, Patricia Clarkson. (PG-13, 106 min.)

It takes a village not only to raise a child but also, in this case, to aid the delusional and help restore good mental health. This movie's premise is high concept and would be easy to dismiss were the film not so flawlessly executed. The screenplay by *Six Feet Under*'s Nancy Oliver mimics some of that show's tonal implausibilities, which nevertheless succeed here despite the odds. Gosling again displays his exacting commitment to characterization as Lars, a painfully reticent young man who shocks his family and community when he introduces them to the wheelchair-bound Bianca, a lifelike sex doll with whom he forges a chaste romantic relationship. Despite abundant opportunities for smutty gags, the film never ventures down this path, staying on its best behavior in matters of courtship and film ratings. The pitch-perfect delivery of the entire cast cannot be overstated, as their performances keep the film from straying into absurd or sickly sweet dimensions. *(10/26/2007)* – *Marjorie Baumgarten*
★★★½ Alamo Ritz

MARGOT AT THE WEDDING

D: Noah Baumbach; with Nicole Kidman, Jennifer Jason Leigh, Jack Black, Zane Pais, John Turturro, Ciarán Hinds. (R, 91 min.)

The casual cruelty that the characters in *Margot at the Wedding* inflict upon one another is often shocking in its matter-of-factness. The divorced parents in director/screenwriter Baumbach's mordantly funny *The Squid and the Whale* were hardly role models for the two sons caught in the crossfire, but their flaws seemed achingly human and ultimately forgivable. In this follow-up film by Baumbach, however, it's difficult – sometimes impossible – to find any rapport with someone like Margot (Kidman). Shortly after arriving at the family home for the wedding of her estranged sister, Pauline (Leigh), to a hopeless slacker (a miscast Black), she begins to wreak emotional havoc with everyone within her sphere of contact: family, friends, even total strangers. It's clear that Margot is a troubled soul in some kind of terrible pain, but the film does little to depict her as anything but a pushy, judgmental, and overly critical human being. Not even Kidman's formidable talents can plumb the depths of what makes Margot tick, though there is something unequivocally fearless in her performance. *(12/14/2007)* – *Steve Davis*
★★ Arbor

THE MIST

D: Frank Darabont; with Thomas Jane, Marcia Gay Harden, Andre Braugher, Laurie Holden, Toby Jones, William Sadler, Frances Sternhagen, Jeffrey DeMunn, Alexa Davalos, Nathan Gamble. (R, 127 min.)

The Mist is a horror film with a message. Extended passages pause the action to preach and demonstrate the dark impulses of irrationality, magical thinking, and mob mentality. Sadly, these interludes only take away from the magnificent moments in which the stunningly crafted beasties in the mist (credit visual-effects supervisor Everett Burrell and creature design and make-up-effects artist Greg Nicotero) come out to prey. Darabont has made an old-fashioned scary movie that uses a B-name movie cast (minus Harden) as set-piece fodder: victims and antagonists of the film's menacing creepy-crawlies. And, man alive! *The Mist*'s grossly tentacled who-knows-whats and giant flying insect thingees are as shuddersome as they come. Unlike Stephen King, upon whose novella the film is based, Darabont ends this story with a dropkick to the cerebellum, a change from the original that shocks the viewer and leaves little doubt that Darabont thinks we're all headed to hell in a handbasket. *(11/23/2007)* – *Marjorie Baumgarten*
★★★ Metropolitan

MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY

D: Steve Bendelack; with Rowan Atkinson, Emma de Caunes, Max Baldry, Willem Dafoe, Karel Roden. (G, 88 min.)

If you like Atkinson's Mr. Bean character – his tooty yellow Mini, his busily working beetle brows, his tendency to point and grunt and eat shellfish whole – then you will be rewarded with 88 minutes of such. If you are not a fan, *Holiday* will not win you over. Not even with its references to Jacques Tati, not even with Bean's French moppet of a traveling sidekick (Baldry), not even with the winsome young actress (de Caunes) with whom Bean has a thankfully chaste attraction. At the end of the day, it's either funny when Bean chases a chicken to get back his bus ticket, or it isn't, and you know where you stand. Certainly Atkinson's flair for being Bean has not diminished, but in the final analysis, this *Holiday* is a so-so late-summer diversion, unlikely to reignite Beanmania – or repeat the previous film's boffo box office. *(08/24/2007)* – *Marrit Ingman*

★★ Movies 8

MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM

D: Zach Helm; with Dustin Hoffman, Natalie Portman, Jason Bateman, Zach Mills, Ted Ludzik, Rebecca Northan, Matt Baram, Kiele Sanchez. (G, 109 min.)

Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium has whimsy coming out of its ears. Writer/director Helm is the writer of *Stranger Than Fiction*, which was also whimsical but had the common decency to be cynical, as well. Now the brakes are off, and Helm can feel free to give voice to all his passion for childlike eccentricity without all the baggage that comes with making a movie for adults. What he's come up with is a toy store run by a gleeful 200-year-old man-child (Hoffman). At his side are Molly Mahoney (Portman), a former child-prodigy; 10-year-old Eric Applebaum (Mills); and Henry Weston (Bateman), an accountant who wears a tie to work, meaning he's lost touch with his inner child (God bless him). With his incessant cackling and jigging and adorable lisp, Hoffman is an unbearable force of nature, while Portman is disappointing as a young adult stuck in neutral. The film's one saving grace is Bateman. *(11/16/2007)* – *Josh Rosenblatt*

★½ Tinseltown South

Head

***Head* (1968)** *D: Bob Rafelson; with Peter Tork, Davy Jones, Micky Dolenz, Michael Nesmith, Annette Funicello, Timothy Carey. (G, 86 min.)* **High for the Holidays.** The Monkees overstepped in a most fascinating manner during their jump from the little screen to the big. Rafelson and co-conceptualist Jack Nicholson did for the Monkees what Richard Lester did for the Beatles with *A Hard Day's Night* and *Help!*: created a wacked-out, aimless universe that constantly riffs on popular culture. Not a hit at the time with the regular Monkees fans, the rarely screened *Head* has since grown in critical stature. It's also the film Rafelson and Nicholson made before their zeitgeist-defining film, *Five Easy Pieces*. With music and lots of cameos. (*) @Alamo Ritz. Monday. 9:45pm.

NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN

D: Joel Coen, Ethan Coen; with Tommy Lee Jones, Javier Bardem, Josh Brolin, Kelly Macdonald, Woody Harrelson, Garret Dillahunt, Barry Corbin, Tess Harper, Stephen Root. (R, 122 min.)

It seems at first like an odd pairing: the Coen brothers, they of the dark-humored film genre conflations, and Cormac McCarthy, the modern laureate of the Southern gothic novel. Yet the Coens' adaptation of McCarthy's as-if-written-for-the-screen *No Country for Old Men* becomes a marvelous meld of sensibilities. The film is essentially a crime drama, although also something of a chase film. It holds up against the Coens' earlier genre masterpieces like *Miller's Crossing* and *Fargo* and makes recent genre misfires like *Intolerable Cruelty* and *The Ladykillers* more forgivable. The *No Country for Old Men* storyline is as old as the template for the brothers' first film, *Blood Simple*: Follow the money. At least three characters are chasing a satchel filled with $2 million. One of them is Anton Chigurh (Bardem), a character who immediately leaps into the forefront of indelible American monsters. As it unfolds, the cat-and-mouse chase is a sheer delight to watch. The performances are captivating, too. *(11/16/2007)* – *Marjorie Baumgarten*

★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, Southpark Meadows, Tinseltown South, Westgate

THE PERFECT HOLIDAY

D: Lance Rivera; with Morris Chestnut, Gabrielle Union, Faizon Love, Terrence Howard, Queen Latifah, Charlie Murphy, Katt Williams, Rachel True. (PG, 96 min.)

Far from perfect and about as much fun as a holiday in Cambodia, this is lightweight yuletide fluffery, offensive neither in tone nor spirit but entirely unnecessary. Ben (Chestnut) is a singer-songwriter moonlighting as a department-store Santa; his possible paramour, single mom Nancy (Union), is pregnant with implausibility, having already spawned too-cute hood rat Emily (Khail Bryant) with previous alpha male gajillionaire J-Jizzy (Murphy). The moment of introduction into a Christmastime story of a character tagged with the debatably profane name of "J-Jizzy" is usually when I opt out, but Murphy, all dumbass rap snaps and oily hip-hop overkill, turns out to be the savior of the film, if not humanity. Ben and Nancy, smart and sweet and fated to be together yet living with the perpetual torment of "normal" names, don't stand a chance against Murphy's superfly Jizz-bomb, who steals the show without even breaking a dookie rope, yo. *(12/14/2007)* – *Marc Savlov*

★½ Southpark Meadows, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION

D: Russell Mulcahy; with Milla Jovovich, Oded Fehr, Ali Larter, Mike Epps, Iain Glen, Ashanti, Christopher Egan. (R, 95 min.)

This third cinematic installment of the popular apocalyptic video-game series is strictly point-and-shoot. Bioengineered superhuman Alice (kicky series regular Jovovich) hooks up with survivors of the last film, who are traveling cross-country in a *Road Warrior*-like convoy. Alice and company have set their sights on the allegedly undead-free Alaska but not before a petrol pit stop in the now-Saharaesque Las Vegas. Director Mulcahy stages the action set-pieces with vigor and begs, borrows, and steals bits and bobs of other, better apocalyptic cinescapes with wild abandon. Say what you like about the *Resident Evil* series as a whole (I certainly have), but *Extinction* rarely lacks for action. Through sheer dint of workmanlike chutzpah, this cheeseball series has accumulated its own down-and-dirty brand of fun. Almost all of it has to do with watching the occasionally nude Jovovich look absolutely smashing in duster and sidearms, but sometimes, let's face it, that's not enough. *(09/28/2007)* – *Marc Savlov*

★★ Movies 8

RUSH HOUR 3

D: Brett Ratner; with Jackie Chan, Chris Tucker, Vinnie Jones, Max von Sydow, Noémie Lenoir, Hiroyuki Sanada, Youki Kudoh. (PG-13, 91 min.)

It says something that the most inspired comedic performance in *Rush Hour 3* comes from director-cum-fugitive Roman Polanski, whose turn as the head of the Parisian police arrives midway through the film: He and his flunkies torture returning intercontinental buddy cops Los Angeles Detective Carter (Tucker) and Hong Kong Inspector Lee (Chan). It's either the most inspired *Chinatown* gag ever or a sure sign the diminutive Oscar winner has gone 'round the bend. Either way, this third outing in the series falls flat faster than most of Chan's goofy line readings. The film is *The Bourne Ultimatum*'s evil twin, relying, as it repeatedly does, on tired, cookie-cutter, cliché action set-pieces (Chan no longer has the sinewy grace of his young-

er *Police Story*-era self, nor is Tucker's pop-eyed, horn-dog cop schtick anywhere nearly as funny as he thinks it is) and a by-the-numbers script. As it is, it just signals a series that's plainly out of gas. *(08/10/2007)* – *Marc Savlov*
★ Movies 8

THIS CHRISTMAS

D: Preston A. Whitmore II; with Delroy Lindo, Loretta Devine, Idris Elba, Chris Brown, Columbus Short, Keith Robinson, Laz Alonso, Regina King, Mekhi Phifer, Sharon Leal, Lauren London. (PG-13, 117 min.)

I have to ask: What could possibly explain the presence of two first-rate actors like Lindo and Elba in a movie as bland as *This Christmas*? They star in this glorified TV movie about an estranged family reuniting after four years to discover the true meaning of Christmas. Elba plays the Whitfield family's prodigal son, who decides it would be best to go home for Christmas after a run-in with two impatient bookies forces him to leave town with little more than the leather cap on his head. He arrives home to find most of his family members living lives of not-so-quiet desperation. Add to the mix a couple of extended all-family dance sequences in the living room and a soundtrack composed of jazzed-up Christmas carols that will make you feel like you're trapped in a shopping mall, and you've got the perfect formula for holiday cheer: It's redemption through sentimentality, salvation through schmaltz. *(11/23/2007)* – *Josh Rosenblatt*
★★ Southpark Meadows, Millennium, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

TYLER PERRY'S WHY DID I GET MARRIED?

D: Tyler Perry; with Perry, Sharon Leal, Janet Jackson, Malik Yoba, Jill Scott, Richard T. Jones, Tasha Smith, Michael Jai White, Denise Boutte, Lamman Rucker. (PG-13, 118 min.)

In this latest effort, Perry characteristically presents himself in quadruple-threat-style as writer, director, producer, and actor. While his last film (*Tyler Perry's Daddy's Little Girls*) focused on one couple, this one branches out into four. Jackson plays a psychologist who vacations every winter with a group of close friends, all married couples and all dealing with much drama. As the couples vacation together, emotions run amok, dirt gets thrown, and purportedly, we all learn a little bit more about the true meaning of marriage. But frankly, I think I learned more about the true meaning of contrived melodrama. Take one abusive relationship, add some infidelity, a dead child, a mountain of guilt, several fur coats, a cat fight or two, and you've got yourself one hell of a melodramatic throwdown. And Perry follows these rules to the letter. *(10/19/2007)* – *Toddy Burton*
★ Movies 8

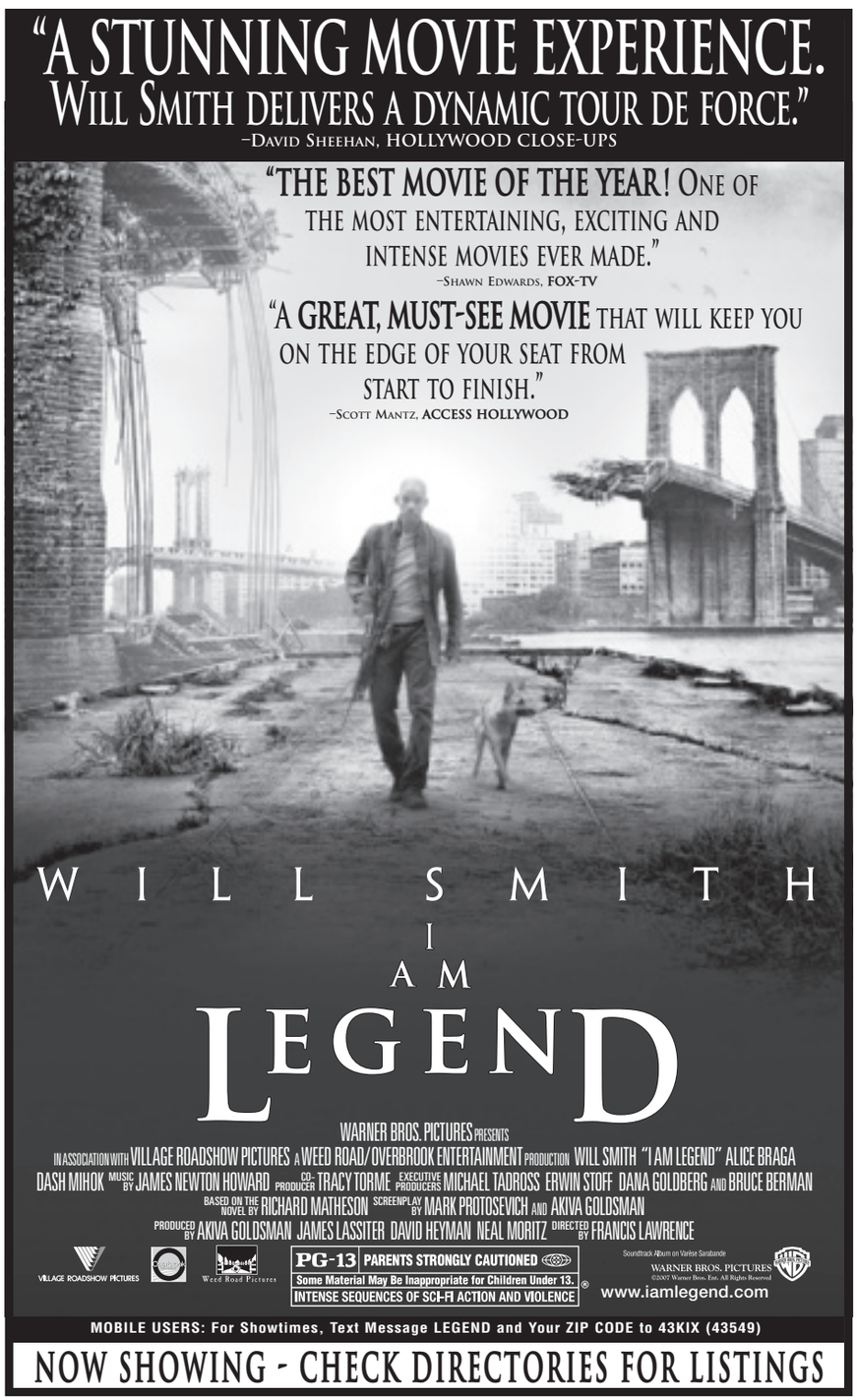
WE OWN THE NIGHT

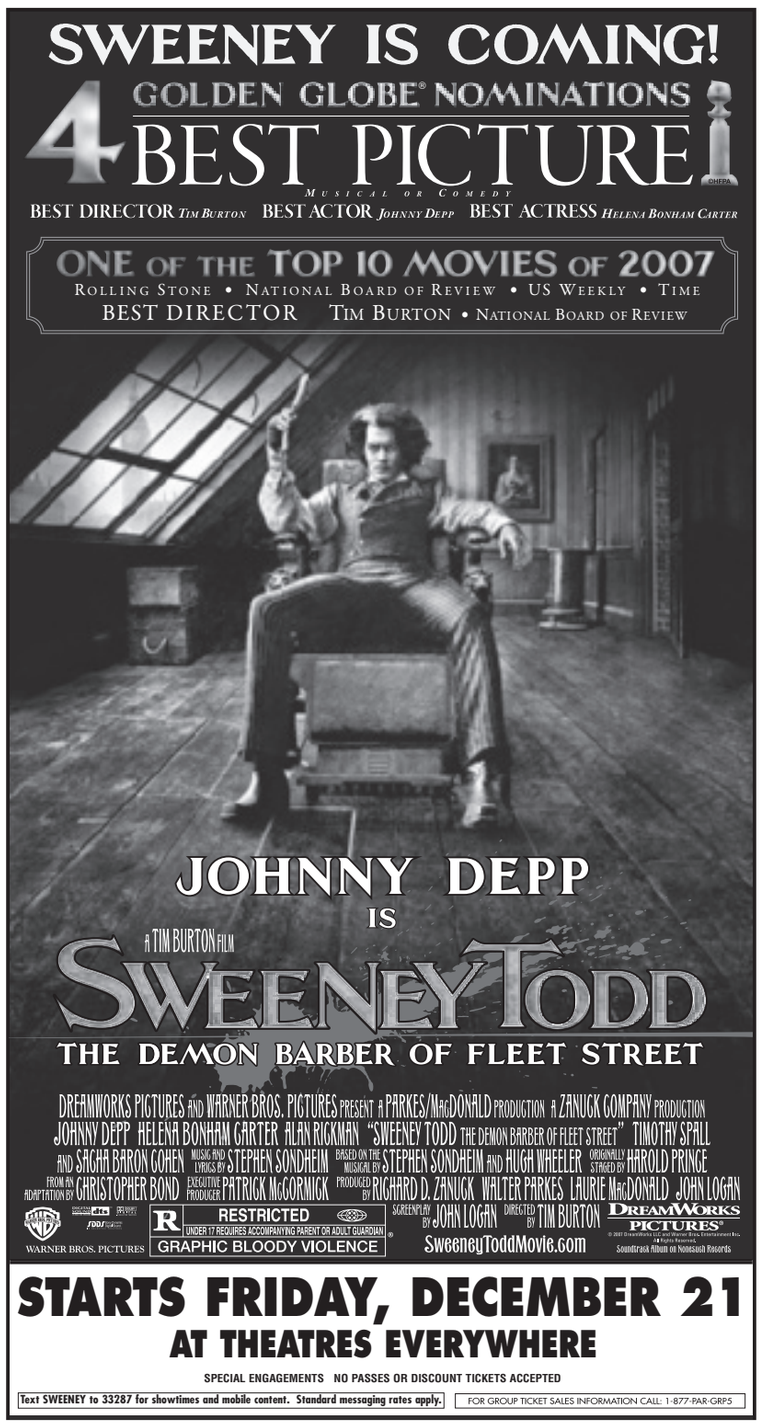
D: James Gray; with Joaquin Phoenix, Mark Wahlberg, Robert Duvall, Eva Mendes, Antoni Corone. (R, 117 min.)

The Russian crime syndicate in New York and conflicts between brothers on opposite sides of the law: These are writer/director Gray's recurrent (redundant?) themes. That Wahlberg and Phoenix both co-starred in Gray's last film, 2000's *The Yards*, doesn't ease *We Own the Night*'s sense of déjà vu. Set in 1988 at the height of NYC's drug-fueled crime years, *We Own the Night* is rife with familiar twists. However, the combined screen presence of the dynamic Phoenix, subdued Wahlberg, and trusty Duvall lends the film a solidity it otherwise might not have had, but some of the film's period details fall short of their marks due to quibbling inaccuracies and improbabilities. Gray's signature long takes and overhead shots are in evidence and add to the film's fatalistic tone, and one rainy car-chase sequence is a real keeper. But, overall, it's impossible to shake the film's gloomy sense of eternal repetition. *(10/12/2007)* – *Marjorie Baumgarten*
★★ Movies 8

Check Film Listings online for full-length reviews, up-to-date showtimes, archives, and more!

austinchronicle.com/film





Special Screenings

BY MARJORIE BAUMGARTEN

The symbol (*) indicates full-length reviews available online: **austinchronicle.com/film.**

Nutcracker

THURSDAY 20

The Christmas Pops! Sing-Along Milk and cookies for everyone. @Alamo Ritz, 7, 9:45pm.

***Heima* (2007)** *D: Dean DeBlois. (NR, 97 min.)* The film chronicles a series of free concerts Sigur Rós played played in their native Iceland during the summer of 2006. @Dobie, 8pm.

***Silent Night, Deadly Night* (1984)** *D: Charles E. Sellier Jr.; with Robert Brian Wilson, Lilyan Chauvin, Gilmer McCormick, Toni Nero, Linnea Quigley. (R, 82 min.)* **Terror Thursday.** Santa Claus is on a killing spree. @Alamo Ritz, 12mid; free.

***Slaughter Party* (2005)** *D: Fred Rosenberg; with Felissa Rose, Ford Austin, Mighty Mike Murga, Adam Glasser. (NR, 76 min.)* **Tromatic Thursday.** Friends go off on an adventure and find a murderous maniac. @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 10pm; free.

The Wizard of Oz* With *Dark Side of the Moon *D: Victor Fleming; with Judy Garland, Ray Bolger, Bert Lahr, Jack Haley, Frank Morgan, Billie Burke, Margaret Hamilton, Charley Grapewin, Munchkins. (G, 101 min.)* **High for the Holidays.** Find out whether there's really a synchronicity between Hollywood's beloved *The Wizard of Oz* and Pink Floyd's 1973 musical opus, *Dark Side of the Moon*. Supposedly, if you crank up the album with the third roar of the MGM lion, you'll enter an upside-down world of hidden meanings and trippy rabbit holes. (*) @Alamo Ritz, 12mid.

SPACES

***American Drug War: The Last White Hope* (2007)** *D: Kevin Booth. (NR, 120 min.)* Local filmmaker Booth's film shows how money, power, and greed have corrupted drug users as well as the government. Expert testimonials from the ground troops in the costliest war in American history are presented. The premiere will be hosted by Alex Jones, and the filmmaker will be present for a Q&A. See "What's It Good For," p.60. @Antone's, 10pm; $10.

***Waitress* (2007)** *D: Adrienne Shelly; with Keri Russell, Nathan Fillion, Cheryl Hines, Jeremy Sisto, Andy Griffith, Adrienne Shelly. (PG-13, 104 min.)* Free. (*) @Rounders Pizzeria, 8pm.

FRIDAY 21

***Home Alone* (1990)** *D: Chris Columbus; with Macaulay Culkin, Joe Pesci, John Candy, Daniel Stern. (PG, 102 min.)* **Master Pancake Theater.** Overflowing with primitive, disastrously unfunny sight gags and neo-hateful familial humor, *Home Alone* will be like catnip to the funny cats of Master Pancake. (*) @Alamo Ritz, 9:45pm, 12mid.

SATURDAY 22

***Emmet Otter's Jug-Band Christmas*: Uncut** See p.92.

***Home Alone* (1990)** @Alamo Ritz, 9:45pm, 12mid. (See Fri., 12/21.)

Nutcracker (NR, 110 min.) Performed by the San Francisco Ballet and choreographed by the ballet's Artistic Director Helgi Tomasson, this digital version of the Tchaikovsky Christmas classic is set in early 20th century San Francisco. For advance tckets see **www.www.ticketmakers.com**. @Highland, Saturday, 2, 5.

***The Rocky Horror Picture Show* (1975)** *D: Jim Sharman; with Richard O'Brien, Barry Bostwick, Susan Sarandon, Tim Curry. (R, 95 min.)* Austin fans have been dressing up and doing the "Time Warp" thing live for 31 years straight. For more info, see **www.austinrocky.org**. @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 12mid.

SUNDAY 23

***Beerfest* With Beerlympics (2006)** *D: Jay Chandrasekhar; with Chandrasekhar, Will Forte, Kevin Heffernan, Cloris Leachman, Steve Lemme, Mo'Nique, Eric Christian Olsen. (R, 110 min.)* **High for the Holidays.** Before Broken Lizard's comedy film about the underground world of competitive beer drinking, there will be live Beerlympics games to get your juices flowing. @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

Nutcracker @Highland, 2, 5. (See Sat., 12/22.)

The Wizard of Oz* With *Dark Side of the Moon @Alamo Ritz, 9:45pm. (See Thu., 12/20.)

SPACES

***National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation* (1989)** *D: Jeremiah S. Chechik; with Chevy Chase, Beverly D'Angelo, Randy Quaid. (PG-13, 97 min.)* Dinner specials. Hosted by Jerm Pollet. @Belmont, 8pm; free.

MONDAY 24

***Billa* (2007)** *D: Vishnuvardhan; with Ajith Kumar, Nayantara, Namitha, Prabhu. (NR, 152 min.)* A remake of the blockbuster 1980 Indian film, *Billa* is a gangster-vs.-the cops story filmed largely in Malaysia. @Tinseltown South, 3pm.

***Harold & Kumar Go to White Castle* With All-You-Can-Eat Mini-Burgers (2004)** *D: Danny Leiner; with John Cho, Kal Penn, Paula Garcés, David Krumholtz. (R, 87 min.)* **High for the Holidays.** "*Harold & Kumar* consistently nails each laugh because it is, quite simply, good, dumb, stoner fun." – *Kimberley Jones*. Featuring authentic all-you-can-eat miniburgers (but note, there's no other food service for this show). @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

***Head* (1968)** See p.94.

Nutcracker @Highland, 2. (See Sat., 12/22.)

***Welcome* (2007)** *D: Anees Bazmee; with Akshay Kumar, Nana Patekar, Anil Kapoor, Feroz Khan. (NR, 158 min.)* This new Bollywood film is a comedy about a gangster family who is looking for a groom for their daughter. @Tinseltown South, 3, 6:15pm.

TUESDAY 25

***Beerfest* With Beerlympics (2006)** @Alamo Ritz, 7pm. (See Sun., 12/23.)

The Wizard of Oz* With *Dark Side of the Moon @Alamo Ritz, 9:45pm. (See Thu., 12/20.)

WEDNESDAY 26

***Beerfest* With Beerlympics (2006)** @Alamo Ritz, 7pm. (See Sun., 12/23.)

***Drunken Wutang* (1983)** *D: Yuen Cheung-Yan; with Yuen Siu-Tien, Yuen Shun-Yee. (NR, 90 min.)* **Weird Wednesday.** Wild chopsocky picture with crazy-sounding characters and a plot too wacky to encapsulate. Be prepared for turtle men, watermelon monsters – and lots and lots of wire work. @Alamo Ritz, 12mid; free.

***(Good) Friday* (1995)** *D: F. Gary Gray; with Ice Cube, Chris Tucker, Nia Long, Anna Maria Horsford, Regina King, Bernie Mac, John Witherspoon. (R, 91 min.)* **High for the Holidays.** This is a cleaned-up version of the urban comedy with all the profanity stripped out and ridiculous voices dubbed in by Foleyvision's Buzz Moran. It's comedy on a whole other level. @Alamo Ritz, 9:45pm.

The Wizard of Oz* With *Dark Side of the Moon @Alamo Ritz, 12mid. (See Thu., 12/20.)

SPACES

***Ratatouille* (2007)** *D: Brad Bird; with the voices of Patton Oswalt, Lou Romano, Ian Holm, Janeane Garofalo, Brian Dennehy, Peter O'Toole, Brad Garrett. (G, 110 min.)* Free. (*) @Rounders Pizzeria, 6:30pm.

THURSDAY 27

***Dead Kids* (1981)** *D: Michael Laughlin; with Michael Murphy, Louise Fletcher, Dan Shor, Fiona Lewis, Arthur Dignam. (R, 87 min.)* **Terror Thursday.** Also known as *Strange Behavior*, this horror film features music by Tangerine Dream and a story about a scientist who is experimenting with turning college students into killers. @Alamo Ritz, 12mid; free.

***Dr. Hackenstein* (1988)** *D: Richard Clark; with David Muir, Michael Ensign, Cathy Cahn, Stacey Travis. (R, 88 min.)* **Tromatic Thursday.** A mad scientist is using the body parts of locals to reassemble his wife. @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 10pm; free.

***Harold & Kumar Go to White Castle* With All-You-Can-Eat Mini-Burgers (2004)** @Alamo Ritz, 7pm. (See Mon., 12/24.)

***Reefer Madness: The Movie Musical Sing-Along* (2005)** *D: Andy Fickman; with Kristen Bell, Christian Campbell, Neve Campbell, Alan Cumming, Ana Gasteyer. (R, 109 min.)* **High for the Holidays.** This musical is a Showtime remake of the popular propaganda film. Raise your voices and inhale. @Alamo Ritz, 9:45pm.

The Wizard of Oz* With *Dark Side of the Moon @Alamo Ritz, 12mid. (See Thu., 12/20.)

SPACES

***Superbad* (2007)** *D: Greg Mottola; with Michael Cera, Jonah Hill, Christopher Mintz-Plasse, Emma Stone, Martha MacIsaac, Seth Rogen, Bill Hader. (R, 114 min.)* Free. (*) @Rounders Pizzeria, 8pm.

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

The Austin Chronicle is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date. **The deadline for the Jan. 4 issue is Monday, Dec. 24**. Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork.

Send submissions to the *Chronicle*, PO Box 49066, Austin 78765, fax 458-6910, or e-mail.

Contact Marjorie Baumgarten (Special Screenings): **specialscreenings@austinchronicle.com**; Wayne Alan Brenner (Offscreen): **calendar@austinchronicle.com**.

Offscreen

501 Studios: Soundstage + HD Theatre 501 Studios' historic soundstage in Downtown Austin now doubles as one of Texas' largest public theatres – with a Sony Qualia HD projector, a 28-foot screen, 180 (removable) seats, a vintage popcorn machine, and affordable rates. Need a venue for premieres, wrap parties, and concerts/plays/performances featuring projection? This could be the place. Also still available as a soundstage/green screen. **thomasallen@501studios.com**.

Cine las Americas: Call for Entries The 11th Cine las Americas International Film Festival, scheduled for April 16-24 here in Austin, is currently open for submissions. Works made by or about Latinos and native groups of the Americas are eligible to participate. See their website for an entry form. Deadline: *Dec. 21.* **www.cinelasamericas.org**.

Screen It Like You Mean It Austin Studios has a state-of-the-art screening room, and, lucky you, they've opened it up on a rental basis to the public, which means you can finally toss out that old Sony Watchman you've been thrusting in potential distributors' mugs for the past three years. Community and indie rates are available for the room, which sports an 18-foot-by-7-foot screen, 28 fixed theatre seats, and a surround-sound system and supports Super-35, 35mm, 16mm, VHS, and DVD formats. Handicap accessible, restrooms – the works. They also have a "break room" suitable for presentations, meetings, and general cinematic tomfoolery. *322-0145.* **www.austinstudios.org**.

See Film Afresh *Thu., Dec. 27. 397-1458. $60/4 Tuesdays.* **www.doughertyartscenter.org**.

Spring Classes With Kat Candler Script to Screen Workshop covers all aspects of filmmaking. *Jan. 22-April 22. Tuesdays, 6:30-9pm*. **Teen Filmmaking Workshop**. *Jan. 21-April 21. Mondays, 6:30-8:30pm*. Register now; see the Austin Film School website for details. **www.austinfilmschool.org**.

The Screenplay Workshop: January Classes Forming Austin's only nondegree program dedicated to screenwriting is registering students for six-week classes that begin in January: Feature-Film Screenwriting (*Mondays, 7-10pm, or Saturdays, 1-4pm*) and Screenwriting According to the Masters (*Tuesdays, 7-9pm*). Classes comprise lectures, film-clip viewing, and in-class writing exercises, taught by professional screenwriters. See their website for details. **www.thescreenplayworkshop.org**.

IMAX Theatre

For ticket prices call 936-IMAX or 936-TSHM or see **www.thestoryoftexas.com**. See Showtimes for dates and times.

***Santa vs. the Snowman 3D* (2002)** *D: John A. Davis; with the voices of Steve Oedekerk, Ben Stein, Victoria Jackson, Jonathan Winters. (G, 37 min.)* Made by the same creative team behind *Jimmy Neutron*, the movie is an entertaining kids diversion, although its hardcore sentiments may prove a bit off-putting. Voice contributions by Winters and Stein help buoy the film cartoon's humor. (*)

***Sea Monsters 3D: A Prehistoric Adventure* (2007)** *D: Sean MacLeod Phillips; narrated by Liev Schreiber. (NR, 40 min.)* *National Geographic* uses photo-realistic, computer-generated, 3-D animation to transport audiences back to the late Cretaceous period more than 65 million years ago, when a great inland sea divided North America in two. (*)

***Texas: The Big Picture* (2003)** *D: Scott Swofford; narrated by Colby Donaldson. (NR, 39 min.)* Panoramic shots of Texas grace the screen as Texas is shown to be a land capable of growing everything from grapefruit to microchips.

***The Polar Express* (2004)** *D: Robert Zemeckis; with Tom Hanks, Michael Jeter, Peter Scolari, Nona Gaye, Eddie Deezen. (G, 100 min.)* Chris Van Allsburg's magical tale of the Christmas Eve re-education of a Santa-doubting adolescent returns to the big screen in all its dimensions. (*)

***Wildfire: Feel the Heat* (1999)** *D: Mike Slee; narrated by Andre Braugher. (NR, 40 min.)* Crews put out *really big* fires around the world.

Pack a full week of *Chronicle* **Film Listings** into your **iPod**, **PDA**, or **phone**!
austinchronicle.com/ipod

5 GOLDEN GLOBE® NOMINATIONS
INCLUDING
BEST PICTURE COMEDY

"ONE OF THE YEAR'S VERY BEST FILMS!"
Scott Mantz, ACCESS HOLLYWOOD

When the world wasn't watching, they changed it forever.

A MIKE NICHOLS FILM TOM HANKS JULIA ROBERTS PHILIP SEYMOUR HOFFMAN

CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR

WINNER
BEST ADAPTED SCREENPLAY
AARON SORKIN
WASHINGTON, DC FILM CRITICS

WINNER
BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR · BEST WRITER
PHILIP SEYMOUR HOFFMAN · AARON SORKIN
CRITICS' CHOICE AWARDS NOMINEE

UNIVERSAL PICTURES PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH RELATIVITY MEDIA AND PARTICIPANT PRODUCTIONS
A PLAYTONE PRODUCTION TOM HANKS JULIA ROBERTS PHILIP SEYMOUR HOFFMAN "CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR"
AMY ADAMS NED BEATTY MUSIC BY JAMES NEWTON HOWARD EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS CELIA COSTAS RYAN KAVANAUGH JEFF SKOLL
PRODUCED BY TOM HANKS GARY GOETZMAN BASED ON THE BOOK BY GEORGE CRILE SCREENPLAY BY AARON SORKIN DIRECTED BY MIKE NICHOLS

RELATIVITYMEDIA · PARTICIPANT PRODUCTIONS · PLAYTONE

R RESTRICTED
UNDER 17 REQUIRES ACCOMPANYING PARENT OR ADULT GUARDIAN
STRONG LANGUAGE, NUDITY/SEXUAL CONTENT AND SOME DRUG USE

SOUNDTRACK ON PLAY-TONE/VARÈSE SARABANDE

A UNIVERSAL PICTURE UNIVERSAL
© 2007 UNIVERSAL STUDIOS
® www.charliewilsonswar.net

MOBILE USERS: FOR SHOWTIMES - TEXT CHARLIE WITH YOUR ZIP CODE TO 43KIX (43549)!

OPENS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21ST

Alamo Drafthouse
Alamo Village
Anderson Lane West of Burnett
512) 476-1320

Cinemark
Cedar Park
1890 Ranch Ctr. FM 1431 @183A
(800) FANDANGO (2143)

Cinemark
Tinseltown
I-35 North @ Stassney Ln.
(512) 989-8540

Galaxy
Highland 10
I-35 & Middle Fiskville Rd.
(512) 467-7305

Regal Cinemas
Lakeline Mall
11200 Lakeline Mall Dr.
(800) FANDANGO (367)

AMC
Barton Creek
2901 Capitol of Texas Hwy.
(512) 306-9190

Cinemark
Southpark Meadows
I-35 S. @ Slaughter Creek Overpass Exit.
((800) FANDANGO (2140)

Cinemark
Tinseltown Pflugerville
I-35 @ FM 1825 - Pflugerville
(512) 989-8529

Regal Cinemas
Gateway Stadium 16
Capital of Texas Hwy @ 183
(800) FANDANGO (366)

Regal Cinemas
Westgate Stadium 11
4477 S. Lamar Blvd.
(800) FANDANGO (369)

SPECIAL ENGAGEMENTS NO PASSES OR DISCOUNT COUPONS ACCEPTED
CHECK THEATRE DIRECTORIES FOR SOUND INFORMATION AND SHOWTIMES

3 GOLDEN GLOBE® NOMINATIONS
BEST PICTURE COMEDY OR MUSICAL
BEST ACTRESS ELLEN PAGE COMEDY OR MUSICAL
BEST SCREENPLAY DIABLO CODY

"★★★★"
CLAUDIA PUIG, USA TODAY

"THE FEEL-GOOD MOVIE OF THE SEASON."
JACK MATHEWS, NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

"★★★★"
THELMA ADAMS, US WEEKLY

"A PERFECT MOVIE."
ROBERT WILONSKY, THE VILLAGE VOICE

"★★★★"
LOU LUMENICK, NEW YORK POST

JUNO

"★★★★"
ROGER EBERT, CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

FOX SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES PRESENTS A MANDATE PICTURES/MR. MUDD PRODUCTION A JASON REITMAN FILM "JUNO"
ELLEN PAGE MICHAEL CERA JENNIFER GARNER JASON BATEMAN ALLISON JANNEY J.K. SIMMONS
CASTING BY MINDY MARIN C.S.A. MUSIC BY MATEO MESSINA SONGS BY KIMYA DAWSON MUSIC SUPERVISORS PETER AFTERMAN AND MARGARET YEN
CO-PRODUCER BRAD VAN ARRAGON FILM EDITOR DANA E. GLAUBERMAN PRODUCTION DESIGNER STEVE SAKLAD DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY ERIC STEELBERG
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JOE DRAKE NATHAN KAHANE DANIEL DUBICKI PRODUCED BY LIANNE HALFON JOHN MALKOVICH MASON NOVICK RUSSELL SMITH

PG-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED
SOME MATERIAL MAY BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 13
MATURE THEMATIC MATERIAL, SEXUAL CONTENT AND LANGUAGE

WRITTEN BY DIABLO CODY DIRECTED BY JASON REITMAN SOUNDTRACK ON RHINO RECORDS
® www.foxsearchlight.com

MOBILE USERS - FOR SHOWTIMES - TEXT **JUNO** AND **YOUR ZIP CODE** TO 43 KIX (43549)

EXCLUSIVE ENGAGEMENTS
START FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21

Alamo Drafthouse
South Lamar
1120 South Lamar
(512) 476-1320

Regal Cinemas
Arbor Stadium 8 @ Great Hills
Jollyville Rd. N of Great Hills
(800) FANDANGO (684)

CALL THEATRE FOR SHOWTIMES.

FROM TEXAS' OLDEST INDEPENDENT BREWERY

SPOETZL

SHINER TOP TEN TEXAS ARTISTS

1) IRON & WINE
Shepherd's Dog

2) LYLE LOVETT & HIS LARGE BAND
It's Not Big, It's Large

3) SPOON
Ga Ga Ga Ga Ga

4) OMAR KENT DYKES & JIMMIE VAUGHAN
On the Jimmy Reed Highway

5) STEVIE RAY VAUGHAN
Solos, Sessions & Encores

6) TONI PRICE
Talk Memphis

7) STORYVILLE
Live at Antone's

8) RUTHIE FOSTER
The Phenomenal ...

9) JIMMY LAFAVE
Cimmaron Manifesto

10) GHOSTLAND OBSERVATORY
Paparazzi Lightning

Shiner
THERE'S Nothing FINER!

WATERLOO Ice House

WWW.WATERLOOICEHOUSE.COM

6TH AND LAMAR
472-5400

M-F 4-7pm
HAPPY HOUR
50¢ off bottled beer and $2 off appetizers

38th and MEDICAL PARKWAY
451-5245

TUESDAYS 7PM
WILL DUNLAP

WEDNESDAYS 7PM
PTARMIGAN

IT'S ALL AT... CONTINENTALCLUB.COM

The Continental Club

UPSTAIRS IN THE GALLERY

ART BY SUE ZOLA
"ALL THAT GLITTERS"
THURSDAY • 10PM
PARIS '49
FRIDAY • SATURDAY • SUNDAY
MIKE FLANIGIN'S B-3 TRIO
TUESDAY • 10:30PM
EPHRAIM OWENS
WEDNESDAY • 10PM
TRUBE, FARRELL & SNIZ

MON DEC 24
CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS EVE! HAPPY HOLIDAYS! SEE YOU TOMORROW NIGHT.
THE GALLERY IS CLOSED TONIGHT!

THURS DEC 20

HAPPY HOUR
THE MOTHER TRUCKERS
12:30AM DEDRINGERS
11:15PM CHRIS MASTERSON & ELEANOR WHITMORE
10PM SHOTGUN PARTY

TUESDAY DEC 25
DOORS AT 9PM, SHOW STARTS AT 10PM
NO HAPPY HOUR TODAY
DALE WATSON'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SHOW AND DANCE
NYE DALE WATSON

WEDNESDAY DEC 26
H.H. SHOTGUN PARTY
JAMES McMURTRY

FRIDAY DEC 21

H. H. THE LEGENDARY BLUES SPECIALISTS

THE SKUNKS
HOLIDAY REUNION

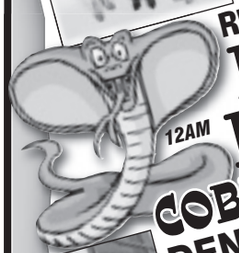
10PM JON DEE GRAHAM

THURSDAY DEC 27
HAPPY HOUR 6:30-9PM
NATHAN SINGLETON AND HIS SIDESHOW TRAGEDY
12AM O=A

SATURDAY DEC 22

10PM TEISCO DEL REY
10PM DUSTIN WELCH & THE HOUSE BAND

FRIDAY DEC 28
MATINEE 3-7PM REDD VOLKAERT
H. H. THE LEGENDARY BLUES SPECIALISTS
12AM WHITE GHOST SHIVERS


12AM PAUL RAY AND THE COBRAS FEATURING DENNY FREEMAN
10PM Little Mikey AND THE SODA JERKS

SATURDAY DEC 29
MATINEE 3-7PM REDD VOLKAERT

LEROI BROTHERS
12AM DIAMOND SMUGGLERS
ETTA VENDETTA'S EYEFUL TOWER

SUNDAY DEC 23
WITH REDD VOLKAERT AND EARL POOLE BALL
10PM
11:15PM KNUCKLE YUMMY

COMING SOON
NYE DALE WATSON & JON DEE GRAHAM
1/5 ELVIS!!

1315 S. CONGRESS • OPEN: TUES.-FRI. 4PM • SAT. 3PM • SUN. 9PM • 441-2444

music listings

Forever Changes BEERLAND, FRIDAY 21

Counterculture celebrated its 1967 reawakening this August at Ruta Maya's Summer of Love Hoot, where Jimi Hendrix, Moby Grape, and the Doors burned down classics channeled by local stars. At the heart of the all-day (glow) happening, Forever Changes brought the Love, Arthur Lee's conscious-expanding chamber rock unbridled through members of the Ugly Beats and Nervous Exits. Haight/Ashbury folk by Brothers & Sisters and *oye como va* from Hacienda, too. – *Raoul Hernandez*

Li'l Cap'n Travis
HOLE IN THE WALL, FRIDAY 21

TODD V. WOLFSON

Twilight on Sometimes Island (Glurp) proved prophetic once Li'l Cap'n Travis first mate Christian Braafladt sailed to Colorado and left the local quintet's home gigs fewer 'n' further in between. He's still AWOL at the Hole in the Wall for LCT's rum-punchy alt-pop, but hopefully his "The Magic of December" – a seasonal carol for Austin and far beyond – isn't. Ethan Azarian's aural eggnog and Tiny Adventures inebriate all elves beforehand. – *Raoul Hernandez*

Future Clouds & Radar
STUBB'S, SATURDAY 22

See "Off the Record," p.66.

Ghost of the Russian Empire
EMO'S, SATURDAY 22

Ghost of the Russian Empire loves the fuzz blasted out dark and foggy. The local quartet's debut LP is due presently, sampled on an eponymous EP recently, and if the forthcoming full-length buzzes as entrancing as 2006 EP *With Fiercest Demolition* (Thirty Ghosts), we're golden. Transplanted Brits IV Thieves leave the arena behind for a special acoustic show, alongside Austin-via-Florida shadow-dwellers New Roman Times and ATX atmospherists Bayta Darell. – *Darcie Stevens*

Mary Welch y los Curanderos
PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE, SATURDAY 22

There are few ailments Mary Welch y los Curanderos can't heal. She's quietly stepped up somewhere behind Tish Hinojosa and Patricia Vonne with a songbird's voice and plenty of Latina spice. "A tablespoon of tango, a bottle of bolero, a fresh batch of bossa nova, a side of salsa," she says, splashed with a touch of dance music. Where else will you hear "Crazy" sung in Spanish as "Loco"? 8pm. – *Margaret Moser*

The Week Before Christmas: A Show List in Verse

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas, which means enough holiday shows to stuff your stocking and then some. We've made a list, checked it twice, and here's a rundown of the naughty and nice.

'Twas the week before Christmas,
and all over town,
two-steppers were shuffling
to honky-tonk sounds.
Friday brings Benson
and **Asleep at the Wheel**
to the Broken Spoke's dance floor
with swinging appeal.
Meanwhile down on Sixth Street,
not yet quite abandoned,
the Dirty Dog Bar
lets **James "Slim" Hand** in.
Rockabilly queen **Rosie Flores**
heats up the night
at Patsy's Cowgirl Cafe
down on Ben White.

The Continental Club
has a reunion of punks:
Jon Dee Graham, Billy Blackmon,
and Jesse Sublett as the **Skunks**.
Friday the classic trio "Get Twisted,"
like back in the day,
with a little help from opener,
Teisco Del Rey.

Paul Ray & the Cobras
make their annual return

Rosie Flores
TODD V. WOLFSON

to the Continental Club
Saturday
ready to burn
hot rhythm and blues
with guitarist **Denny Freeman**,
fresh off one more round
of touring with Dylan.

Like a gift-wrapped delivery
straight from the North Pole,
the Saxon Pub's Saturday
dishes the soul.
With **Papa Mali**,
Ruthie Foster,
and **Cyril Neville**
joining **Gurf Morlix**
and **Guy Forsyth**
on the all-star bill.

Should Christmas Day find you
still wanting more,
Dale Watson's annual
Christmas Dance
hits the Continental Club floor.

And last but not least,
capping the holiday shows,
is Wednesday's Christmas
bash
upstairs at Momo's,
where **Alan Haynes**
and **Ruthie Foster**
join **Miss Lavelle White**,
wishing happy Christmas
to all,
and to all a good night.
– *Doug Freeman*

The Friday Group
SALVAGE VANGUARD THEATER, SUNDAY 23

The Church of the Friendly Ghost's reappearence at SVT this year meant only good things for the local experimental scene, and it closes out the year in high style. The Friday Group, featuring Charalambides guitarist Tom Carter and Iron Kite's Shawn David McMillen and Brian Smith, is sure to be a sensory overload of Texas drone, preceded by the noise jigsaw of Jherri Seinfeldt's Atrophied Saq, plus local miscreants Doug Ferguson, the Noisettes (not the British band), and Clear Spot, as well as various orgiastic combinations of the aforementioned bands. 6pm. – *Audra Schroeder*

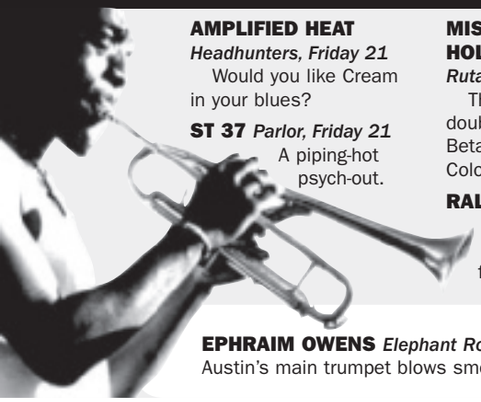
'Dark Side of the Rainbow'/'Head'
ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE AT THE RITZ, SUNDAY 23/MONDAY 24

Part of the Alamo's time-honored High for the Holidays series, *Dark Side* offers mind-expansion enthusiasts the opportunity to see for themselves how Pink Floyd's *Dark Side of the Moon* syncs up with *The Wizard of Oz*. The high-larity continues Christmas Eve with a rare 35mm print of *Head*, the Monkees' surreal, 1968 career suicide note featuring cameos from co-writer Jack Nicholson, plus Teri Garr, Sonny Liston, Annette Funicello, and Frank Zappa. See **www.originalalamo.com** for showtimes and tickets. – *Greg Beets*

Thulsa Doom, the Snake Trap
WHISKY BAR, THURSDAY 27

Not to be confused with the Norwegian stoner rock band or James Earl Jones' character in Gov. Schwarzenegger's 1982 breakthrough, *Conan the Barbarian*, local instrumental fivepiece Thulsa Doom progs out with electronics – two basses, guitar, drums, and turntables – on upcoming debut EP *Vissisitudes*. Australian Cattle God's Gorch Fockers in the Snake Trap hit with the trio's latest, 2006's *At Home in a Hostile World*, and Attack Formation electronic arm Butcher Bear opens. – *Darcie Stevens*

Soundcheck BY AUDRA SCHROEDER



AMPLIFIED HEAT
Headhunters, Friday 21
Would you like Cream in your blues?

ST 37 *Parlor, Friday 21*
A piping-hot psych-out.

MISC. MUSIC HOLIDAZE PARTY
Ruta Maya, Friday 21
The local label delivers double vision with Aliens, Beta Valentine, Inverted Colors, and Waspandpear.

RALPH WHITE
Parlor, Sunday 23
'Tis the season for murder ballads.

FIRE VS. EXTINGUISHER
Beerland, Sunday 23
A splendid night for instrumental *Squalor.*

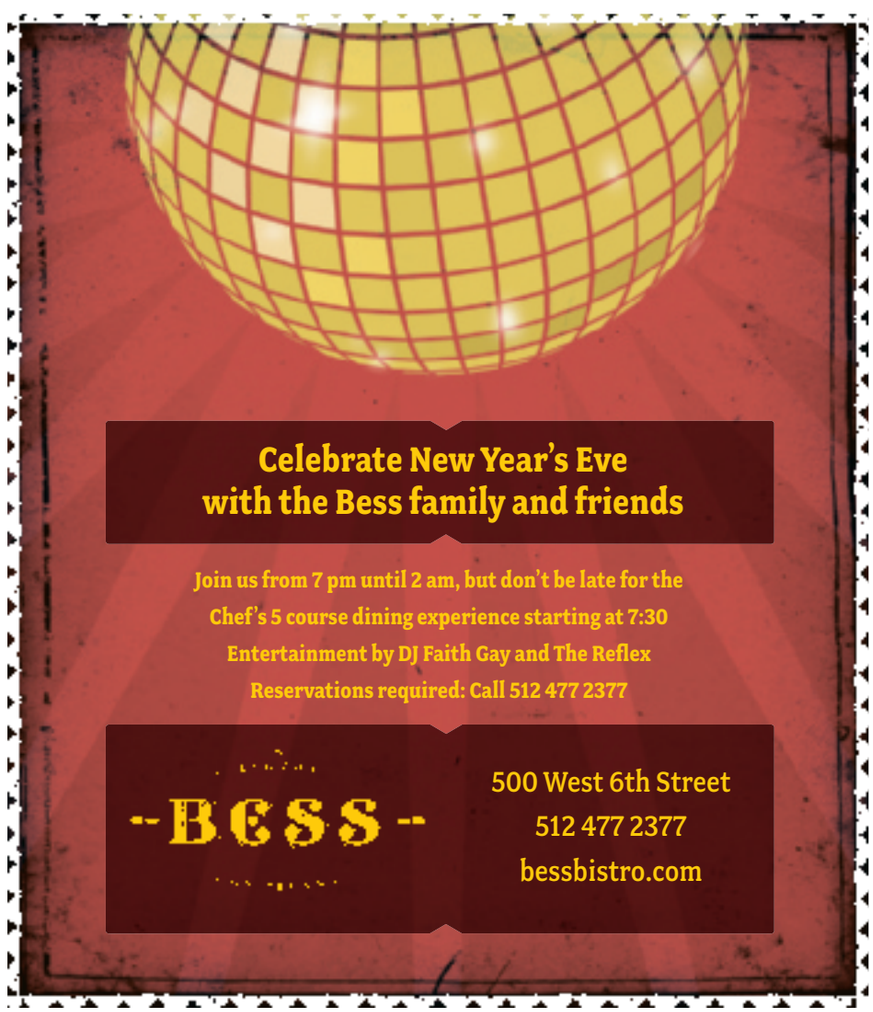
PINETOP PERKINS, LOU ANN BARTON
Antone's, Wednesday 26
'Twas the night after Christmas, and piano man Pinetop's in the house.

TRANS-SIBERIAN ORCHESTRA
Erwin Center, Wednesday 26
It's not Christmas without lasers and smoke machines. Not recommended for children younger than 35.

ARC ANGELS
Antone's, Thursday 27
Austin's early-1990s deities descend again.

EPHRAIM OWENS *Elephant Room, Saturday 22*
Austin's main trumpet blows smoke.

live music VENUES p.100
CLUB LISTINGS + roadshows p.102



live music venues

219 WEST, 219 W. Fourth, 474-2194
311 CLUB, 311 E. Sixth, 477-1630
ABIA: EARL CAMPBELL'S SPORTS BAR, 3600 Presidential, 530-ABIA (2242)
ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR, 3600 Presidential, 530-ABIA (2242)
ABIA: LEFTY'S BAR & GRILLE ON SIXTH STREET, 3600 Presidential, 530-ABIA (2242)
ABIA: WATERLOO RECORDS/AUSTIN CITY LIMITS, 3600 Presidential, 530-ABIA (2242)
AGAVE, 415 E. Sixth, 469-7892
ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE AT THE RITZ, 320 E. Sixth, 476-1320
THE ALLIGATOR GRILL, 3003 S. Lamar, 444-6117
ANTONE'S, 213 W. Fifth, 320-8424
APPLEBEE'S NEIGHBORHOOD BAR & GRILL, 3001 N. I-35, Round Rock, 512/388-7353
ARTZ RIB HOUSE, 2330 S. Lamar, 442-8283
AUSTIN CONVENTION CENTER, 500 E. Cesar Chavez, 476-5461
AUSTIN FARMERS' MARKET DOWNTOWN, Fourth and Guadalupe, 236-0074
AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735, 2103 E.M. Franklin, 926-0043
AUSTIN PRESBYTERIAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, 100 E. 27th, 472-6736
AUSTIN'S PIZZA, 1817 S. Lamar, 795-8888
B.B. ROVERS, 12636 Research Ste. B-101, 335-9504
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB, 204 E. Sixth, 494-1335
BABY ACAPULCO'S NO. 3, 5610 N. I-35, 302-1366
BABY ACAPULCO'S NO. 5, 9505-B Stonelake, 795-9000
BASTROP SENIOR CENTER, 1008 Water, Bastrop, 512/321-7907
BEERLAND, 711½ Red River, 479-ROCK
THE BELMONT, 305 W. Sixth, 457-0300
BENNIGAN'S, 301 Barton Springs Rd., 472-7902
BOB BULLOCK TEXAS STATE HISTORY MUSEUM, 1800 Congress, 936-8746
'BOUT TIME, 9601 N. I-35, 832-5339
BROKEN SPOKE, 3201 S. Lamar, 442-6189
THE BROWN BAR, 201 W. Eighth, 480-8330
CACTUS CAFE, Texas Union, UT campus, 475-6515
CAFE MUNDI, 1704 E. Fifth #100, 236-8634
THE CANARY ROOST, 11900 Metric, 836-6360
CAROUSEL LOUNGE, 1110 E. 52nd, 452-6790
CATHEDRAL OF ST. MARY, 203 E. 10th, 476-6182
CEDAR STREET, 208 W. Fourth, 495-9669
CENTRAL MARKET NORTH, 4001 N. Lamar, 206-1000
CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH, 4477 S. Lamar, 899-4300
CHAIN DRIVE, 504 Willow, 480-9017
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE, 119 Cheatham, San Marcos, 512/353-3777
CHEZ ZEE AMERICAN BISTRO, 5406 Balcones, 454-2666
CINDY'S GONE HOG WILD, 5496 Hwy. 71 E., Cedar Creek, 512/247-4600
CLUB 973, 104 W. Carrie, Manor, 512/350-8724
CLUB DE VILLE, 900 Red River, 457-0900
CLUB IN THE MIX, 2355 Hwy. 71 E., 389-1507
CONTINENTAL CLUB, 1315 S. Congress, 441-2444
COOL RIVER CAFE, 4001 Parmer, 835-0010
COPA BAR & GRILL, 217 Congress, 479-5002
COTTON CLUB, 212 E. Davilla, Granger, 512/859-0700
CREEKSIDE LOUNGE, 606 E. Seventh, 480-5988
CUBA LIBRE, 409 Colorado, 472-2822
DIRTY DOG, 3411 N. Lamar, 453-3647
DONN'S DEPOT, 1600 W. Fifth, 478-0336
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE, 301 E. Fifth, 472-1860
EGO'S, 510 S. Congress, 474-7091
EL RINCON ROUND ROCK, 1208 N. I-35, Round Rock, 512/388-7600
EL SOL Y LA LUNA, 1224 S. Congress, 444-7770
ELEPHANT ROOM, 315 Congress, 473-2279
ELYSIUM, 705 Red River, 478-2979
EMO'S, 603 Red River, 477-3667
EVANGELINE CAFE, 8106 Brodie #110, 282-2586
FADÓ, 214 W. Fourth, 457-0172
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 901 Trinity, 476-2625
FLAMINGO CANTINA, 515 E. Sixth, 494-9336
FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE, 4600 Guadalupe, 380-0097
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE, 1601 Barton Springs Rd., 480-8646
FRANK ERWIN CENTER, 1701 Red River, 471-7744
FRIENDS, 208 E. Sixth, 320-8193
FURR'S FAMILY DINING, 4015 S. Lamar, 441-7825
GIDDY UPS, 12010 Manchaca, 280-4732
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON, 5434 Burnet Rd., 458-1813
GREEN PASTURES, 811 W. Live Oak, 444-4747
GRUENE HALL, 1281 Gruene Rd., New Braunfels, 830/606-1281, 830/629-5077
GÜERO'S TACO BAR, 1412 S. Congress, 447-7688
HANOVER'S, 108 E. Main, Pflugerville, 512/670-9617
HEADHUNTERS, 720 Red River, 236-0188
THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE, 617 Congress, 476-0473
HILL'S CAFE, 4700 S. Congress, 851-9300
HOLE IN THE WALL, 2538 Guadalupe, 477-4747
HOMER'S BAR & GRILL, 1779 Wells Branch #114, 251-5554
JAVA LOUNGE AT AUSTIN JAVA, 1206 Parkway, 476-1829
JO'S COFFEE, 1300 S. Congress, 444-3800
JOHNNY FINS, 16405 Clara Van Trail, 266-2811
JOVITA'S, 1619 S. First, 447-7825
LA PALAPA, 6640 Hwy. 290, 459-8729
LAMBERTS, 401 W. Second, 494-1500
LAS PALOMAS, 3201 Bee Caves Rd. #122, 327-9889
THE LOADING DOCK, 708 S. Austin St., Georgetown, 512/864-2100
LOCKER ROOM SPORTS BAR, 629 W. Ben White, 444-9329
LONGBRANCH INN, 1133 E. 11th, 472-5477
LOVEJOYS, 604 Neches, 477-1268
LUCKY LOUNGE, 209-A W. Fifth, 479-7700
LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE, 141 E. Hopkins, San Marcos, 512/558-7399
MAGGIE MAE'S, 323 E. Sixth, 478-8541
MAIKO SUSHI LOUNGE, 311 W. Sixth, 236-9888
MANUEL'S, 310 Congress, 472-7555
MARIA'S TACO XPRESS, 2529 S. Lamar, 444-0261
MEOW, 618 W. Sixth, 472-2037
MERKABA LOUNGE & GRILL, 14106 N. I-35
MOLOTOV, 719 W. Sixth, 499-0600
MOMO'S, 618 W. Sixth, 479-8848
MOONRIVER, 2002 N. Pace Bend Rd., Spicewood, 512/264-2064
MOTHER EGAN'S IRISH PUB, 715 W. Sixth, 478-7747
MOXIE AND THE COMPOUND, 909 W. Mary, 441-6699
MULLIGAN'S, 900 RR 620 S., 263-3305
NASTY'S, 606 Maiden, 453-4349
NORTH BY NORTHWEST, 10010 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 467-6969
NUEVO LEON, 1501 E. Sixth, 479-0097
NUNO'S ON SIXTH, 422 E. Sixth, 833-5133
NUTTY BROWN CAFE, 12225 Hwy. 290 W., 301-4648
THE OAKS, 10206 FM 973 N., 278-8788
THE OASIS, 6550 Comanche Trail, 266-2442
ONE 2 ONE BAR, 121 E. Fifth, 473-0121
THE PARISH, 214 E. Sixth, 479-0474
THE PARLOR, 100-B E. North Loop, 454-8965
PARMER LANE TAVERN, 2121 Parmer #1, 339-0663
PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE, 5001 E. Ben White, 444-2020
THE PEACOCK, 515 Pedernales, 276-8979
PLUSH, 617 Red River, 478-0099
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL, 22308 Hwy. 71 W., Spicewood, 512/264-0318
RACK DADDY'S, 4410 E. Riverside, 389-1577
REALE'S PIZZA & CAFE, 13450 Research, 335-5115
RED 7, 611 E. Seventh, 476-8100
RED EYED FLY, 715 Red River, 474-1084
RED FEZ, 209-B W. Fifth, 478-5120
REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB, 9901 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 342-7977
RENAISSANCE HOTEL, 9721 Arboretum, 343-2626
RILEY'S TAVERN, 8894 FM 1102, Hunter, 512/392-3132
ROADHOUSE, 1103 Wonder, Round Rock, 512/218-0813
THE ROCK ROOM, 101 E. Main, Round Rock, 512/244-5450
ROCKIN' TOMATO, 3003 S. Lamar, 447-3351
ROMEO'S GEORGETOWN, 701 Main, Georgetown, 512/868-1300
ROMEO'S, 1500 Barton Springs Rd., 476-1090
ROOM 710, 710 Red River, 476-0997
ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE, 11800 Lamar, 835-2414
RUTA MAYA, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637
SALVAGE VANGUARD THEATER, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886
SAM'S TOWN POINT, 2115 Allred, 282-0083
SAXON PUB, 1320 S. Lamar, 448-2552
SCOOT INN AND BIER GARTEN, 1308 E. Fourth, 478-6200
SHAKESPEARE'S PUB, 314 E. Sixth, 472-1666
SHENANIGANS, 13233 Pond Springs Rd., 258-9717
SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL, 9012 Research Ste. C-1, 380-9443
SHOAL CREEK SALOON, 909 N. Lamar, 474-0805
SHOOTERS BILLIARDS, 11416 RR 620 N., 401-2060
SPEAKEASY, 412 Congress, 476-8017
STUBB'S, 801 Red River, 480-8341
THE STUDIO, 5804 S. I-35, 467-7900
T.C.'S LOUNGE, 1413 Webberville Rd., 926-2200
TEXAS BAR & GRILL, 14611 Burnet Rd., 255-1300
THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ, 301 W. Riverside, 472-9304
TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL, 2201 College, 443-4200
TRIPLE CROWN, 206 N. Edward Gary, San Marcos, 512/396-2236
TROPHY'S, 2008 S. Congress, 447-0969
VICTORY GRILL, 1104 E. 11th, 902-5057
THE WATER TANK, 7309 McNeil, 331-9831
THE WATER-HOLE SALOON, 5244 Hwy 71 E., Del Valle, 512/247-5119
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE CIRCLE C RANCH, 9600 Escarpment Blvd., 301-1007
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE, 6203 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 418-9700
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE, 1106 W. 38th, 451-5245
WHISKY BAR, 303 W. Fifth, 481-8599
Y BAR & GRILL, 7720 Hwy. 71 W., 394-0220
Z'TEJAS, 1110 W. Sixth, 478-5355

MUSICIANS REGISTER

SEARCH FOR BANDS, BROWSE BY GENRE, LISTEN TO MP3S, COMMENT ON YOUR FAVORITE ARTISTS, VIEW UPCOMING SHOWS

CHRONICLE austinchronicle.com/musicreg

TRIPLE CROWN

LIVE MUSIC CAPITAL OF SAN MARCOS

(512) 396-2236 / www.triplecrownlive.com

Th 20	Molly Hayes 6pm Grant Ewing Band 10pm
Fr 21	Rabb Rodriguez y los Killa' Hogs 6pm Robbie & the Robots, Rockus Circus 10pm
Sa 22	Attic Ted, Thousand Foot Whale Claw, Spooky Texas 10pm
Su 23	Open Mic w/ Pat, Holly & Nate 8pm
Mo 24	Mark Jungers 6pm Free Juke Box & Free Pool 8pm
Tu 25	Bob King 6pm Free Juke Box & Free Pool 8pm
We 26	Erickson 6pm Free Juke Box & Free Pool 8pm
Th 27	Phil Stevens 6pm Master Tape, Babel Fishh, EVAK1 9pm
Fr 28	RC Banks 6pm Jamie Krueger Group 9pm
Sa 29	Scott Biram 10pm

LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL

EVANGELINE CAFE MUSIC SERIES

8106 BRODIE LANE · 282-2586

FRIDAY DECEMBER 21 • 10PM • $5
FREIGHT TRAIN TROUBADORS

SATURDAY DECEMBER 22
THIERRY LECOZ & FRIENDS CHRISTMAS SHOW

SUNDAY DECEMBER 23
CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS

MONDAY DECEMBER 24
CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS

TUESDAY DECEMBER 25
ERIC HISAW
CHRISSY FLATT 7PM

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 26 • 7PM
CRAIG TOUNGATE

THURSDAY DECEMBER 27 • 10PM
REDD VOLKAERT

SIXTH STREET MAGGIE MAE'S AUSTIN TEXAS

LIVE MUSIC 7 DAYS A WEEK

GET READY TO HOLLAR
"TWO DOLLARS"
$2 DRINK SPECIALS
EVERY THURSDAY
ALL NIGHT LONG

SUNDAY ALL NIGHT HAPPY HOUR
FRIDAY & SATURDAY UNTIL 11PM
$2 DOMESTIC & WELLS

SATURDAY BLUES
HAPPY HOUR 6-9PM

THURSDAY 12/20
$2 DRINK SPECIALS
ALL NIGHT LONG
DJ DIAMOND TIP

FRIDAY 12/21
OLIVER WHITE
10PM-2AM

SATURDAY 12/22
MT. SKRILLA
10PM-2AM

COWBOYS VS. PANTHERS
7:15PM
COME ENJOY NFL ACTION ON OUR 26 FT. SCREEN

WEDNESDAY 12/26
PATRICK FLEMING
10PM-2AM

www.maggiemaesaustin.com
SIXTH STREET 478.8541

MERKABA

LOUNGE & GRILL

FRI, DEC 21	LC ROCKS 10PM
SAT, DEC 22	TEXAS HOLD 'EM POKER 4 & 7PM NO ENTRY FEE $200 CASH PRIZE LC ROCKS 10PM
SERVICE INDUSTRY SUNDAYS	DJ TETSUO 9PM $3 YOU CALL IT UFC 9PM NO COVER
FRI, DEC 28	LC ROCKS 10PM
SAT, DEC 29	TEXAS HOLD 'EM POKER 4 & 7PM NO ENTRY FEE $200 CASH PRIZE THE WARTIME SOCIAL 10PM MOTHERS ANTHEM 11PM TIX ON SALE AT FRONTGATETICKETS.COM
MON, DEC 31	NEW YEAR'S PARTY
TUES, JAN 1	PIANO BAR W/ MIKEY & JOE 10PM $3 YOU CALL IT
SERVICE INDUSTRY SUNDAYS	DJ TETSUO 9PM $3 YOU CALL IT UFC 9PM NO COVER

·OPEN FOR LUNCH·
DAILY HAPPY HOUR
FULL MENU TAPAS · FISH · STEAK
40 BEERS ON TAP
14106 N. I-35 • 670-0404
OPEN DAILY 11AM -2AM
merkabaloungeandgrill.com • FREE WI-FI
myspace.com/merkabaloungeandgrill

AUSTIN DAZE PRESENTS RUTA MAYA WEEKENDS

THURS 12/20
FREE MUSIC HAPPY HOUR!
7:00 MEAGAN TUBB & THE SHADY PEOPLE
KOOP 13TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY
8:30 DJ MAGIC EL - JARED BOOK AUDI, DJ IRMA, THE EVILDOERS, DJ RJ DIG, KANKO!!!!

FRI 12/21
MISC. MUSIC PRESENTS
HOLIDAZE PARTY!!!!
9:30-2AM ALIENS, BETA VALENTINE, INVERTED COLORS, WASP AND PEAR

SAT 12/1
HAPPY HOLIDAZE
HOLLY-WOOD MOVIES DOUBLE FEATURE
FREE MOVIE NIGHT AT RUTA MAYA!

www.myspace.com/rutamayaweekends

3601 S. Congress, Suite D 200, Penn Field, South Austin, (Behind Expose), 512-707-9637, Rutamaya.net for details

RUTA MAYA

FREE KIDS SHOW 10:30 AM EVERY SUNDAY

SUN 12/23
Happy Festivus!
DJ Music - No Cover!!
Airing of Grievances All Nite Long

MON 12/24
Xmas Eve Lounge Nite
Hot Tunes - Cold Beer
No Cover!!!

TUE 12/25
Open Christmas Day Noon-11 PM
6 PM Poetry Open Mic
9 PM Music Open Mic
8 PM Poetry Karaoke on Porch

WED 12/26
CUBAN DANCE NIGHT
FREE Salsa Lesson 7:30 PM
Live Salsa 9 PM with CHENFUEGOS

Fresh Organic Coffee!
FREE YOGA - Check Online Calendar

the Hole in the Wall

CELEBRATING 33 YEARS OF ROCKING AUSTIN

THURSDAY DEC 20
CHRIS BRECHT 11:30P
PERILOUS TIDE 10P

FRIDAY DEC 21
LI'L CAP'N TRAVIS 12M
TINY ADVENTURERS 11P
ETHAN AZARIAN 10P

SATURDAY DEC 22
ROGER'S FAREWELL BASH:
KARAOKE APOCALYPSE 11P
BROOKS ALAN BRANNON 7:30P

SUNDAY DEC 23
DANMAS PARTY

MONDAY DEC 24
MIKE DUBOSE & THE DISSIDENTS 11P
LARRY GRAVES 10P
DIANA BRUSCHKE 9PM

TUESDAY DEC 25
DEBBIE & RUSTY'S XMAS XARAOKE

WEDNESDAY DEC 26
LONESOME HEROES 11P
PAUL MINOR 10P

NEW YEAR'S EVE
MOTHER TRUCKERS
CHILI COLD BLOOD

2538 GUADALUPE - THE DRAG
www.holeinthewallaustin.com
www.myspace.com/holeinthewallaustin

STUBB'S
801 RED RIVER
480-8341
THU DEC 20
MURDER, MY SWEET
WITH ELECTRIC TOUCH
FRI DEC 21
SOUNDS UNDER RADIO
WITH THE BARONS
AND THE SOLDIER THREAD
SAT DEC 22
FUTURE CLOUDS & RADAR
WITH LA LA LAND
SUN DEC 23
GOSPEL BRUNCH
WITH
THE GOSPEL SILVERTONES
THU DEC 27
PLANE OF EXISTENCE
WITH ARS SUPERNOVA
SAT DEC 29
NEXT MUSIC AUSTIN. A BENEFIT
FOR THE SIMS FOUNDATION
FEATURING
THE HYDMEN
THE DIVING CAPTAIN
AND ROCKSTROH
MON DEC 31
NEW YEAR'S EVE WITH
SOUTH AUSTIN JUG BAND
AND DERTYBIRD
TICKET INCLUDES FREE
BBQ BUFFET AT 9:30PM
AND CHAMPAGNE TOAST AT 12AM
TICKETS ONSALE NOW!
FRI JAN 4
LOWLINE CALLER
WITH FLAT PEOPLE
AND DOUG BURR
THU JAN 10
LANGUAGE ROOM
WITH ELIOT FITZGERALD
FRI JAN 11
DREAM THE END
WITH EMBER AND SPACE CADET
THU JAN 17
COREY SMITH
FRI JAN 18
BACKDOOR SLAM
Tickets Available at Stubb's
& stubbs.frontgatetickets.com

Hickory Street
est. 1983
Bar & Grill ★ Austin, TX
$2 PINTS
ALL DAY • EVERY DAY
Live Music - Big Patio
Free Live Music For Good Girls & Boys
THRS. AIMEE BOBRUK
FRI. CORINA RACHEL
& Her Dreamland Band
SAT. TAHNI HANDAL
8TH & CONGRESS
AUSTIN·477-8968

Flipnotics
COFFEESPACE CAFÉ
Home of Hot Coffee
Cool Threads
and Live Music
Since 1992
1601 Barton Springs
512.480.8646
www.flipnotics.com
THU 20 >> Raina and Sick • Mockingbirds
FRIDAY 21
Idgy Vaughn
Molly Venter
SATURDAY 22
Lisa Richards
SUN 23 >> The Dialtones
MON 24 >> Closing at 7pm
TUE 25 >> Merry Christmas! Closed
WED 26 >> Zilker Neighborhood Song Swap

TRIANGLE LOCATION
4600 Guadalupe • 512.380.0097
Every THU >> Matt the Electrician
and Southpaw Jones
MON 24 >> Closing at 7pm
TUE 25 >> Merry Christmas! Closed
WED 26 >> Kevin Carroll

club listings

Thu 20

219 WEST Acoustic Jungle (8:00)

311 CLUB Joe Valentine (8:30)

ABIA: EARL CAMPBELL'S SPORTS BAR Stevie Tombstone (3:30)

ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR Tim Curry (3:30)

ABIA: LEFTY'S BAR & GRILLE ON SIXTH STREET Henry & Karl (1:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Paul Glasse

AUSTIN CONVENTION CENTER Cienfuegos, Albert & Gage (3:30)

AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735 Herman the German Birthday Party w/ Das Cowboy, Homer Henderson (9:00)

BEERLAND Worst Bands in Austin w/ Shark Week, Destroyed for Comfort, Comanche Abortion

THE BELMONT Dysfunkshun Junkshun (8:00)

BENNIGAN'S Andy Fiegal (7:00)

BROKEN SPOKE Jesse Dayton

THE BROWN BAR DJ gmau

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Thunderbold, Dope-Smuggling Santas, Erin Govonivich, End of Everything, Gods of Everything, Flatulence

CATHEDRAL OF ST. MARY Celtic Christmas at the Cathedral w/ Chris Buckley, Heather Gilmer, Ed Miller, Silver Thistle Pipes & Drums, St. Mary's Schola Cantorum (8:00)

CEDAR STREET Kent Mayhew, Radiostar (6:00)

CHAIN DRIVE Mistress Stephanie & Her Melodic Cat (10:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Paris 49 (10:00); In the Club: Mother Truckers (6:30), Dedringers, Shotgun Party, Chris Masterson & Eleanor Whitmore (10:00)

COOL RIVER CAFE TUB (9:00)

COPA BAR & GRILL Salsa Lessons w/ Tony, the Brew (8:00)

COTTON CLUB Texas All-Stars (8:30)

DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mark Goodwin Trio (7:30)

EGO'S Billy Dee, 2 Hoots & a Holler

EL SOL Y LA LUNA Trio Indiano (7:30)

ELEPHANT ROOM Ron Wilkins Quartet (9:30)

EMO'S Poor People, Hollerado, Shapes Have Fangs, the Ugly Beats

EVANGELINE CAFE George Enslé (7:00)

FLAMINGO CANTINA Ryan Scroggins & the Trenchtown TXans, Chris Murray (9:00)

FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE Matt the Electrician & Southpaw Jones (8:00)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE The Mockingbirds, Idgy Vaughn (9:00)

FRIENDS DJ Atlas

Acts are chronologically listed. Schedules are subject to change, so please call clubs to confirm lineup. Times are given where known and are PM unless otherwise noted.

LISTINGS ARE FREE AND ARE PRINTED ON A SPACE-AVAILABLE BASIS.

HELLO, CLUBS AND BANDS: Club listings deadline is Monday, 9am, for that week's issue, published on Thursday. Send venue name, address, phone number, acts, and times to: Club Listings, PO Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765; fax 458-6910; phone 454-5766 x159; or e-mail **clubs@austinchronicle.com**.

GIDDY UPS Open Mic w/ Roy & Ted (8:30)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Dale Watson (9:00)

GÜERO'S TACO BAR The Fabs (6:30)

HANOVER'S Karaoke w/ Dan the Man

THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE Brian Kremer (9:15)

HILL'S CAFE Kyle Park

HOLE IN THE WALL Perilous Tide, Chris Brecht (10:00)

HOMER'S BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Brian

JAVA LOUNGE AT AUSTIN JAVA Third Coast Songwriter Showcase w/ Jim Patton & Sherry Brokus, Karen Mal, Matt Harlan, Michael Fracasso, Buddy Mondlock (8:00)

roadshows

DECEMBER

THU 20

Gregory Grene, **John Doyle**, Cathedral of St. Mary

Ron Wilkins Quartet, Elephant Room

Hollerado, Emo's

Chris Murray, **Ryan Scroggins & the Trenchtown TXans**, Flamingo Cantina

Buddy Mondlock, Java Lounge at Austin Java

Zap Em Dead, **Bartholemew**, Red Eyed Fly

Mostly Dead, Trophy's

FRI 21

Hacienda, Beerland

Gregory Grene, **John Doyle**, Cathedral of St. Mary

Rodney Hayden, Gruene Hall

Pillcrusher, Headhunters

Eric Powell, **the Cheatin' Hearts**, Lamberts

Psychostick, Red Eyed Fly

Those Bottom Feeders, Rockin' Tomato

The Barons, **The Soldier Thread**, Stubb's

Robbie & the Robots, Triple Crown

George Underwood, **Spot Barnett**, Victory Grill

SAT 22

Bleach Boys, Beerland

Thierry Le Coz, Evangeline Cafe

Jason Eady, Gruene Hall

Louie's Homemade Jam, Jovita's

Eagle Claw, Red 7

The Dead See, **Rise Thy Ruin**, Room 710

DJ Cut Creator, the Studio

SUN 23

Jenny Reynolds, Momo's

Bexar County Bastards, **Zenith Fuzzbomb**, Room 710

Gospel Silvertones, Stubb's

MON 24

Joseph & Sue Martin, First Baptist Church

WED 26

Mark O'Connor Quartet, Elephant Room

Trans-Siberian Orchestra, Frank Erwin Center

Spitting Bullets, Headhunters

THU 27

Joker, Headhunters

Autons, Trophy's

for your benefit

See **austinchronicle.com** *for complete listings.*

THU 20

Chris Neale Benefit w/ Andy the Mouth, DJ Orion, **Moxie & the Compound**

KOOP Birthday w/ Kanko, Evildoers, Casio, Red Book Audio, **Ruta Maya**

FRI 21

Christmas Program, **Benefit** w/ the Austin Girls' Choir, **Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary**

Nightmare Before Christmas Toy Drive, **Elysium**

Capital Area Food Bank Drive w/ Those Bottom Feeders, **Rockin' Tomato**

TUE 25

House the Homeless Benefit w/ Rockin' Gospel Project, **First Baptist Church**

WED 26

Caritas Benefit w/ Shotgun Party, **Continental Club**

New Year's Eve

$25 Cover

LIVE MUSIC *from*
Chadd Thomas & the Crazy Kings

RESERVE A TABLE
for $100 and receive noisemakers, hats & your table for four

NO COVER *if dining at The Belmont on NYE*

Call 457.0300 to
PURCHASE TICKETS
or to make your
DINNER RESERVATIONS

The Belmont
A CLASSIC AMERICAN RESTAURANT & BAR
305 W 6TH * AUSTIN * 457.0300
THEBELMONTAUSTIN.COM

Live Music Early ... Late Night Loungin'

Lucky lounge

NO COVER • FREE SHOWS

THU, DEC 20, 6PM

THE RETURN OF HAPPY HOUR FEATURING THE 'LEGENDARY'
IAN MCLAGAN & THE BUMP BAND

10PM

LATER:
NOUVEAU

FRI, DEC 21, 9PM

MIKE ROSENTHAL

SAT, DEC 22, 9PM

AFROFREQUE

MON, DEC 24, 9PM

THE 7TH ANNUAL MAZEL BALL

TUE, DEC 25
MERRY XMAS!!!!!!!!!

THU, DEC 27, 6PM

THE RETURN OF HAPPY HOUR FEATURING THE 'LEGENDARY'
IAN MCLAGAN & THE BUMP BAND

10PM

LATER:
SUBROSA UNION

MON, DEC 31, 8PM TILL ????

NEW YEAR'S EVE AT LUCKY LOUNGE

209A West 5th St. 479-7700
Call us to book your private party!
www.theluckylounge.com

NEW PATIO OPEN!
FRI 12/21 • 10PM
THE BLAGGARDS
SAT 12/22 • 10PM
THE BLAGGARDS
GET READY FOR
NEW YEAR'S EVE
AT fadó!
2 TOASTS!

YOUR HOME FOR EPL AND EURO SOCCER
IRISH owned & operated
214 W. 4th
fadoirishpub.com
457-0172

ALL ARE WELCOME
Mohawk
AUSTIN • TEXAS
SMOKE SIGNAL
Front Gate TICKETS

INSIDE THU 20 DEC — FREE HOLIDAY SHOW! LOW LINE CALLER, CHARLES POTTS MAGICAL WINDMILL BAND

INSIDE FRI 21 DEC — AN AM-FI CHRISTMAS FEAT. DR. ZOOM, BURYWOOD, SUPER HOUSE + MORE

INSIDE SAT 22 DEC — AUSTINIST INDIEROKE HOLIDAY PARTY

INSIDE THU 27 DEC — MOSES AND THE BURNING BUSH, FACELESS WEREWOLVES, MANEJA BETO, CRAZY SEXY RAINBOW

INSIDE FRI 28 DEC — THE CUTAWAY CRASH GALLERY, DEADMAN

INSIDE SAT 29 DEC — THE ALWAYS ALREADY WITH MODEL UN

IN & OUT MON 31 DEC — TRANSMISSION AND THE ONION PRESENT: NEW YEAR'S EVE GET DOWN WITH BLACK JOE LEWIS & THE HONEYBEARS, WHITE DENIM, BRAZOS, PINK NASTY & DJ YAKLES

912 REDRIVER
CHECK OUT OUR FANCY NEW WEBSITE
mohawkaustin.com

ALL AGES, ALL THE TIME

Emo's
alternative lounging
477-EMOS
603 RED RIVER

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20
INSIDE: UGLY BEATS • SHAPES HAVE FANGS • HOLLERADO • POOR PEOPLE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21
INSIDE: RINGO DEATHSTARR
LA SNACKS • HAUNTING OBOE MUSIC
FEVER DREAMS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22
INSIDE:
GHOST OF THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE
IV THIEVES • NEW ROMAN TIMES
BAYTA DARELL

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28
INSIDE:
RED AND WHITE WINTER PARTY
THE BLACK • RED LEAVES
CHRISTMAS SPECIAL • SCHOOL POLICE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29
LOUNGE: NICK D PRESENTS
THE 512, PART THREE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30
INSIDE, FREE SHOW!: RUBBLE
BLACK MAYONNAISE • RUSTED SHUT

MONDAY, DECEMBER 31
OUTSIDE: SCOTT BIRAM
FLAMETRICK SUBS • HOTROD HILLBILLIES
INSIDE: WENDY WWADD
40TH BDAY
BIBLE OF THE DEVIL • DIXIE WITCH
SUPLECS • BLACK GASOLINE • BLACKHOLICUS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2
FREE WEEK!
LOUNGE: HUNDRED YEAR STORM
FULTON READ • GOLDEN BEAR
JETS UNDER FIRE • BUILT BY SNOW
INSIDE:
BASTARD SONS OF THE APOCALYPSE
JUDAS • SACRED SHOCK

THURSDAY, JANUARY 3
FREE WEEK!
INSIDE: ATTACK FORMATION
CAMP X RAY • HORN OF AFRICA
POOR PEOPLE • THE BILL JEFFERYS
LOUNGE:
THE SCORE • FALL COLLECTION
THE DRAWING BOARD • THE BUBBLES
OUTSIDE: PROM NITE
FACELESS WEREWOLVES • JERUSALEM
AM SYNDICATE • MAGNET SCHOOL

FRIDAY, JANUARY 4
FREE WEEK!
LOUNGE: HEX DISPENSERS • APE SHITS
THE TEENERS • PARTY GARBAGE
SCRABBLE ROBOT
OUTSIDE: LIONS • BROTHERS AND SISTERS
A FEW NICE THINGS • STRANGE ATTRACTORS
ALRIGHT TONIGHT
INSIDE: THOSE PEABODYS • UGLY BEATS
BLACK JOE LEWIS • TRANSMOGRAPHY

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5
FREE WEEK!
INSIDE: CRUISERWEIGHT
THE LITTLE BICYCLES • THE ANCHOR • MASONIC
LOUNGE: CAR STEREO (WARS)
MOTH! FIGHT! • QUIET, LOVELY
LA SNACKS SPONSORED BY PARTY ENDS.COM
OUTSIDE: STRANGE BOYS • ZYKOS
SPECIAL SECRET GUEST • BRAZOS • LALALAND

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6
FREE WEEK!
INSIDE: UME • RED LEAVES • TRE ORSI
SHARKS AND SAILORS • FOLLOW THAT BIRD!
LOUNGE: NOISE REVIVAL ORCHESTRA
TIL WE'RE BLUE OR DESTROY
BEE VS. MOTH • FRANK SMITH • BENKO

FRIDAY, JANUARY 11

DAN DEACON
ULTIMATE REALITY:
WHEN DINOSAURS RULED THE EARTH:

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12

TRIGGER RENEGADE • THE ROLLER
TICKETS ON SALE NOW

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19
OUTSIDE: LES SAVY FAV

TUESDAY, JANUARY 22
INSIDE: YEASAYER • MGMT
HOT 93.3 PRESENTS

OUTSIDE: LUPE FIASCO

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2
OUTSIDE:

SUPER FURRY ANIMALS
HOLY FUCK TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

TUESDAY, FEB 5
OUTSIDE,
DOORS @ 9PM,
ON SALE NOW:

BRAVERY
SWITCHES

COMING SOON: • 1/15 GALLOWS, THIS IS HELL, CANCER BATS • 1/18 TWO TON BOA (DUETS)* • 1/19 CRIMINAL DAMAGE, THE MARKED MED (IN) • 1/20 NASHVILLE PUSSY • 1/21 HOWL, ST. JUDE / EUGENE ROBINSON (OF OXBOW) • 1/25 SOLE • 1/31 WHITE WILLIAMS (IN/ON SALE NOW) • 2/1 BEDOUIN SOUNDCLASH, WESTBOUND TRAIN, BEAT UNION (IN/TIX ON SALE NOW) • 2/2 SUPER FURRY ANIMALS, HOLY FUCK (OUT/TIX ON SALE NOW) • 2/10 DEAD MEADOW (IN/TIX ON SALE NOW) • 2/16 METEORS • 2/22 COBRA STARSHIP, METRO STATION, WE ARE KINGS, THE CAB (IN) • 2/23 AIDEN • 2/23 BLACK LIPS, WHITE DENIM (OUT/ON SALE NOW) • 3/7 BEACH HOUSE, PAPERCUTS (LOUNGE/ON SALE NOW) • 3/17 ACID MOTHERS TEMPLE (IN/ON SALE NOW)

*ADVANCE TICKETS AVAILABLE AT www.emosaustin.com, waterloo records, end of an ear records, & sound on sound records

club listings ◂◂ FROM THURSDAY

JOVITA'S The Cornell Hurd Band (8:00)

LAMBERTS Attack Formation, Black Panda (10:30)

THE LOADING DOCK Breezy

LOVEJOYS Best Love in Town, Michael Holt & the Trophy 500's

LUCKY LOUNGE Ian McLagan & the Bump Band, Nuveau (6:00)

MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Nathan Hubble, Michael Clay (7:00)

MEOW Kenny Luna

MERKABA LOUNGE & GRILL Dremnt the End (10:00)

MOMO'S Patrice Pike, Will Evans Project, Nathan Singleton, Ricky Stein (8:00)

MOXIE AND THE COMPOUND Chris Neale Benefit w/ Andy the Mouth, DJ Orion (6:00)

NUTTY BROWN CAFE Texas Renegade

THE OAKS Singer-Songwriter Series w/ Sharon & Lew Andre Mathews, Rick Dinsmore & Jocelyn Callard

ONE 2 ONE BAR AJ Vallejo & Zach Baker Jam Session (10:00)

THE PARISH The Boxing Lesson, Peel, AM Syndicate CD Release

PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE 3 Balls of Fire (8:00)

THE PEACOCK Queeraoke w/ K8 (9:00)

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Danny Fast Fingers (8:00)

RED 7 Bad Motivators, Marked, Destroy Everything, Knocked-Out Stiffs, 13th Victim

RED EYED FLY Zap Em Dead, Bartholemew; One Mistake Away; Snakeskin Prison

RED FEZ Twilight Broadcast, Weekend Warm-Up (8:30)

REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Kris Kimura Quartet (7:30)

RENAISSANCE HOTEL Lobby Lounge: Rich DeMarco (6:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Eric Hisaw

THE ROCK ROOM Karaoke w/ DJ Trip

ROOM 710 Painfilled Silence, Stone Dakota, Rend, Cycle of Violence

ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE Cotton Inks

RUTA MAYA KOOP Birthday w/ Kanko, Evildoers, Casio, Red Book Audio

SAXON PUB Bo Porter, Carolyn Wonderland, George Devore, Uncle Lucius (6:00)

SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/ Billy D.

SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Afrofreque CD Release

SHOOTERS BILLIARDS LC Rocks (9:00)

SPEAKEASY Primm (9:30)

STUBB'S Electric Touch, Murder My Sweet

T.C.'S LOUNGE Michael Holt & the Trophy 500's (10:00)

TEXAS BAR & GRILL Tin Pan Phone

TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL Lucky Strikes (7:30)

TRIPLE CROWN Molly Hayes, Grant Ewing

TROPHY'S The Tangle, Mostly Dead, Fatback Circus

VICTORY GRILL Word/Jazz Low Stars (8:00)

Z'TEJAS Latin at Heart (6:00)

Fri 21

311 CLUB Luke Cutchen, Joe Valentine (8:30)

ABIA: EARL CAMPBELL'S SPORTS BAR Melissa Greener (3:30)

ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR Ginger Leigh (3:30)

ABIA: WATERLOO RECORDS/ AUSTIN CITY LIMITS Chopper (1:00)

AGAVE Randy Pavlock (7:30)

ANTONE'S Mother's Anthem, Vallejo (9:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE The Studebakers

AUSTIN CONVENTION CENTER Armadillo Christmas Bazaar w/ Sara Hickman, Blazing Bows, Ruthie Foster (8:30)

AUSTIN PRESBYTERIAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY Christmas Program, Benefit w/ the Austin Girls' Choir (8:00)

BABY ACAPULCO'S NO. 3 Big Frank Gomez (8:00)

BEERLAND Hacienda, Brothers & Sisters, Forever Changes

THE BELMONT Holiday Show w/ Dale Watson & His Lone Stars (9:00)

BOB BULLOCK TEXAS STATE HISTORY MUSEUM Dog Trot Cabin Porch: Erik Hokkanen (2:00)

'BOUT TIME DJ Element

BROKEN SPOKE Asleep at the Wheel

THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke w/ Nicole

CATHEDRAL OF ST. MARY Celtic Christmas at the Cathedral w/ Chris Buckley, Heather Gilmer, Ed Miller, Silver Thistle Pipes & Drums, St. Mary's Schola Cantorum (8:00)

CEDAR STREET Suzanna Choffel, TUB (6:00)

CENTRAL MARKET NORTH W.C. Clark (6:30)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Zack Walther

CINDY'S GONE HOG WILD Boogie Monsters (9:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Mike Flanigin's B-3 Trio; In the Club: The Blues Specialists (6:30), Teisco del Rey, the Skunks *Chrontourage event* (10:00)

COOL RIVER CAFE Newsboyz (9:15)

COTTON CLUB John Arthur Martinez

DIRTY DOG James Hand

DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the Station Masters

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mark Goodwin Trio (8:00)

EGO'S Nakia & His Southern Cousins, Chris Gates, Perry Wing

EL RINCON ROUND ROCK Cienfuegos (8:00)

EL SOL Y LA LUNA Daniel Llanes (7:30)

ELEPHANT ROOM Django's Mustache, Rich Harney Quintet CD Release (6:00)

December 31st - 8:00pm

@ The Monarch Event Center

Tickets $30 until 12/20 - $35 after 12/20

Buy tickets @ Frontgatetickets.com, Waterloo Records, Stubbs and The Monarch Event Center - 512-371-1711

www.monarcheventcenter.com

THE OAKS MUSIC/BEER GARDEN

ALL SHOWS NOW INSIDE

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20 • 7PM
SINGER SONGWRITER XMAS PARTY
SHARON & LEW ANDRE MATHEWS
JOCELYN CALLARD &
RICK DINSMORE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22
6-8PM THE OAKS XMAS PARTY
7PM DALLAS COWBOYS (DISH TV)
8PM JAMES HAND
& BAND

10206 FM 973 • 278-8788
"Just a short drive from downtown Austin!"
www.theoakslive.com

LOVEJOYS
TAP ROOM & BREWERY
PRESENTS...

604 NECHES (512) 477.1268

TOM LOVEJOY'S
NEW YEAR'S BASH

MUSIC FROM HEART & SOUL SOUNDSYTEM
FREE FOOD & CHAMPAGNE AT MIDNIGHT

NO COVER!!!

FREE LIVE MUSIC @ Central Market H-E-B

DATES & BANDS:	@CENTRAL PARK	@WESTGATE
	FRIDAY DECEMBER 21 **WC CLARK** BLUES	THURSDAY DECEMBER 20 **LOST & NAMELESS ORCHESTRA** IRISH, APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN MUSIC
	SATURDAY DECEMBER 22 **DALE WATSON** COUNTRY CHRISTMAS SHOW	SUNDAY DECEMBER 23 **CIENFUEGOS** CUBAN
	FRIDAY DECEMBER 28 **CIENFUEGOS** CUBAN	WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 26 **JACOB WISE** JAZZ
	SATURDAY DECEMBER 29 **GREYHOUNDS** SOUL, BLUES	THURSDAY DECEMBER 27 **ROGER WALLACE** CLASSIC COUNTRY
	FRI & SAT 6:30 - 9pm SUNDAYS 12:30 - 3 pm	WED & THURS 6:30 - 9pm SUNDAYS 12:30 - 3 pm
UPCOMING:	@ CENTRAL PARK: Dec 30 - **JEFF LOFTON** Jan 4 - **EPHRAIM OWENS** Jan 5 - **SETH WALKER** Jan 6 - **BELLEVILLE OUTFIT**	@ WESTGATE: Dec 30 - **SON Y NO SON** Jan 2 - **TX EASTSIDE KINGS** Jan 3 - **COMBO MAHALO** Jan 6 - **STEVE SCHWELLING**
LOCATIONS:	Call 512-206-1000 for details **CENTRAL PARK** 40th & N. Lamar CAFÉ OPEN 7AM - 9PM SUNDAY - THURSDAY 7AM - 10PM FRIDAY & SATURDAY FREE MUSIC, GREAT FOOD, COVERED PATIO & KIDS PLAYSCAPE	Call 512-899-4300 for details **WESTGATE** 4477 South Lamar CAFÉ OPEN 7AM - 9PM SUNDAY - THURSDAY 7AM - 10PM FRIDAY & SATURDAY FREE MUSIC & GREAT FOOD

---

directevents

AUSTIN MUSIC HALL — SPONSORED BY: intel

208 NUECES AUSTIN, TX | WWW.AUSTINMUSICHALL.COM

PARAMOUNT'S ORIGINAL LaserSpectacle — FEATURING THE MUSIC OF PINK FLOYD

FRI JAN 11 TIX ON SALE NOW

LA ZONA ROSA

512 WEST 4TH STREET AUSTIN, TX | WWW.LAZONAROSA.COM

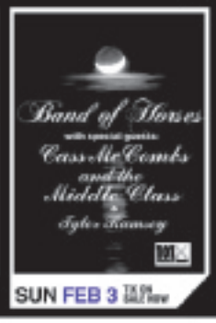
FRI DEC 28

SAT DEC 29

MON DEC 31

TUE JAN 15

FRI JAN 18



SUN FEB 3

WED FEB 13

UPCOMING SHOWS
GREYBOY ALL-STARS JAN 25
KELLER WILLIAMS JAN 26
ROBIN TROWER JAN 27
RODRIGO Y GABRIELA FEB 16
MINISTRY FEB 15
TIX ON SALE NOW

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT GetTix OUTLETS INCLUDING WATERLOO RECORDS, UT CO-OP and RUNTEX LOCATIONS ORDER BY PHONE: 1-866-IGET-TIX
FOR INFO: 512-263-4146 • WWW.DIRECTEVENTS.NET

THE PARISH
214 E. 6TH ST ROOM
ABOVE ROUX RESTAURANT
WWW.THEPARISHROOM.COM
MYSPACE.COM/THEPARISHROOM
TO PURCHASE TICKETS:
THEPARISHROOM.
FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

thursday 12/20:
HANGIN W' NAVDO!
w/PEEL, THE BOXING LESSON,
& AM SYNDICATE
(CD RELEASE)

friday 12/21:
DJ THUNDERBALL of
FORT KNOX FIVE,
HUSTLE SIMMONS &
DAETRON VARGAS

wednesday 12/26:
WAX ON
WEDNESDAYS!
W/DJ MANNY
& DJ SHAKEY (NYC)

friday12/28:
GOLDIELOX
& NEPTUNE
(san francisco)

saturday 12/29:
PATRICE PIKE
w/CAROLYN WONDERLAND
& GINGER LEIGH

PARISH NYE 2007:
ROCK THE
CASBAH
W/DJ MEL!
tix $35 per person starting 12/21
go to: frontgatetickets.com
includes 2 drink tickets

NYE 2007 downstairs@
Roux
LIVE MUSIC
SPECIAL DINNER MENU
CHAMPAGNE TOAST
$20 COVER AFTER 10 PM
CALL 479-0474
for Reservations!

Book your Private Party
at the Parish!
booking@theparishroom.com

THREADGILL'S
WORLD HEADQTS.
301 W. RIVERSIDE DR.
512.472.9304
SUN. 12/23
BELLS OF JOY
Brunch from 10am til 1pm
music starts at 11am
Join us on
Christmas Day
from 11am til 10pm
(Riverside Dr. only)
Happy Holidays!

myspace.com/dirtydogbar
Dirty Dog Bar
505 E. 6th St
Friday 12/21
Texas Music Legend
JAMES HAND
Saturday 12/22
DALLAS AT CAROLINA
Big Fatty's BBQ
GIL & JB'S
HOLIDAY PARTY
Thursday 12/20
Nate Vancil, Bill Rice
Thursday 12/27
Jodi Adair (Singer/Songwriter)
Dallas Blues Hero
Kirkland James
COMING SOON
Friday 12/28
Calling Jack Burton
Siringo Pass
Downtown Austin's Largest Independently Owned and Operated Live Music Venue

Antone's
HOME OF THE BLUES
Happy Holidays!
GREAT HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS!
ANTONE'S MERCH
AT THE CLUB & ONLINE STORE
EV
THURSDAY DEC 20
AMERICAN DRUG WAR
A FILM BY KEVIN BOOTH
GUEST MC ALEX JONES
TICKETS ON SALE NOW AT ANTONES.NET
10:30PM • HIP HOP SHOW
TEXAS YOUNG KINGZ
DONE DEAL • S.M.C. • NICK.D
FRIDAY DEC 21
FELIZ NAVIDAD!
VALLEJO
with MOTHERS ANTHEM
THE CAST • ROBERT JOHNSON'S SOUL
ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM
SATURDAY DEC 22
an evening with
GARY CLARK JUNIOR
with James Bullard
TICKETS ON SALE NOW!
VIP TABLES AVAILABLE
DEC 25 Merry Christmas
WED DECEMBER 26
THE DAY AFTER
Christmas Show
2 TIME GRAMMY NOMINATED
PINETOP PERKINS
and
LOU ANN BARTON
LATER CHICKEN STRUT
ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM
DECEMBER 27 & 29
Arc Angels
2 nights! with openers
12/27: PATRICIA VONNE
12/29: THE BLUEBONNETS
w/ KATHY VALENTINE
ON SALE NOW • VIP TABLES AVAILABLE!
FRIDAY DEC 28
KELLY WILLIS
with
PAULA NELSON
ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM
LATER AMERICAN GRAVEYARD
SUNDAY DEC 30TH
PRE-NEW YEARS-BASH!
WITH THE
SCABS
ALSO:
MALFORD MILLIGAN w/ MPTU
MOTHERS ANTHEM
COMING SOON
SAT JAN 12TH
JUNIOR BROWN
SAT JAN 26TH
SHARON JONES
& THE DAP-KINGS
w/ THE IVAN MILEV BAND
ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM
THURSDAY FEBRUARY 21ST
NORTH MISSISSIPPI ALLSTARS
WITH SPECIAL GUEST
ALVIN YOUNGBLOOD HART
KEEP THE DEVIL DOWN TOUR
ON SALE NOW AT FRONTGATETICKETS.COM
NEW YEARS EVE!
BOB SCHNEIDER
T-BIRD & THE BREAKS
TWO GUY TRIO
FRI JANUARY 04
MARCIA BALL
ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM
SAT JANUARY 05
HANK III
& ASSJACK
ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM
FEBRUARY 26TH
ONE NIGHT ONLY
MACEO PARKER
ON SALE NOW!
FRIDAY JAN 11TH
THE LEE BOYS
ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM
SATURDAY JAN 19TH
JASON ISBELL
AND THE 400 UNIT
& WILL HOGE
WITH JEREMY FISHER
ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM
213 W. 5TH STREET • AUSTIN TX • WWW.ANTONES.NET • ALL AGES WELCOME • AVAILABLE FOR PRIVATE PARTIES • CALL 512.320.8424
ANTONE'S ON MYSPACE

club listings ◂◂ FROM FRIDAY

ELYSIUM Nightmare Before Christmas Toy Drive

EMO'S Fever Dreams, Haunting Oboe Music, La Snacks, Ringo Deathstarr

EVANGELINE CAFE Freight Train Troubadours (10:00)

FADÓ The Blaggards (10:00)

FLAMINGO CANTINA Fly Jack, Navin's Thermos

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Lisa Richards, Idgy Vaughn (9:00)

FURR'S FAMILY DINING Carlton Lombard (6:00)

GIDDY UPS John Michael Rose

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Miss Leslie & Her Juke Jointers (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Rodney Hayden (7:00)

GÜERO'S TACO BAR Larry Lange & His Lonely Knights (6:30)

HANOVER'S Armadillo Action Figures

HEADHUNTERS Pillcrusher, Sweet Skull, Amplified Heat

HILL'S CAFE Sam Bentley

HOLE IN THE WALL Ethan Azarian, Tiny Adventurers, Li'l Cap'n Travis (10:00)

HOMER'S BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Brian

JOVITA'S Ron Scott, Eve Monsees & the Exiles, Marshall Ford Swing Band (6:00)

LA PALAPA Karaoke w/ Big Jim (8:00)

LAMBERTS Kat's Meow (6:30), Winchester Twin, Cheatin' Hearts, Eric Powell (10:30)

LOCKER ROOM SPORTS BAR Mike Milligan & the Altar Boyz

LUCKY LOUNGE Mike Rosenthal (9:00)

MAIKO SUSHI LOUNGE DJ Thibault: Sushi Secret Agent

MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Leeann Atherton (7:00)

MEOW Kenny Luna

MERKABA LOUNGE & GRILL LC Rocks (10:00)

MOMO'S Matthew Ballard, Ruben V, Troy Dillinger, Graham Wilkinson & the Underground Township

NORTH BY NORTHWEST Phillip Gibbs

NUTTY BROWN CAFE Bruce Newman's Nutty Idol Karaoke

ONE 2 ONE BAR Austin Homegrown (10:00)

THE PARLOR Triplewide, ST 37

PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Rosie Flores Christmas Show (8:00)

RACK DADDY'S Karaoke w/ Robert Wagner (10:00)

RED 7 The Van Buren Boys, Whitman, John Wesley Coleman & His Fucking Amigos

RED EYED FLY The Homicides, Screaming Mechanical Brain, Peyton Gin, Psychostick

RED FEZ An Arabian Night, DJ Inverse (8:00)

REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Mr. Fabulous & Casino Royale (8:30)

See **austinchronicle.com** *for complete listings.*

RENAISSANCE HOTEL Lobby Lounge: Rich DeMarco (6:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Shelley King, Bruce Curtis (6:00)

THE ROCK ROOM Ninety to Nothing, Boogie Monsters (9:00)

ROCKIN' TOMATO Capital Area Food Bank Drive w/ Those Bottom Feeders (10:00)

ROMEO'S Rob Greenfield

ROOM 710 Secret Weapons, Chemicals Are Good, the Negatives, Hood Rats

RUTA MAYA Waspandpear, Inverted Colors, Beta Valentine, Aliens (9:30)

SAM'S TOWN POINT Billy & Travis (9:00)

SAXON PUB The Regulars (6:00), Bob Livingston, Maryann Price, Greezy Wheels, Barbara K, Gary P. Nunn, Warren Hood (9:00)

SPEAKEASY Rotel & the Hot Tomatoes (9:30)

STUBB'S The Soldier Thread, the Barons, Sounds Under Radio

THE STUDIO All U Need

TEXAS BAR & GRILL Tin Pan Phone

TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL Stanley Smith Quartet (7:30)

TRIPLE CROWN Rabb Rodriguez y los Killa Hawgs, Rockus Circus, Robbie & the Robots

VICTORY GRILL Spot Barnett, George Underwood, the Blues Specialists (9:30)

THE WATER-HOLE SALOON Karaoke w/ Jonn

Copa
www.CopaBarAndGrill.com

THE BRU
RUMBA caliente
Thursdays

Salsa Claus Party
$200 Best Costume
NO COVER
with your Holiday Costume
Saturday - Dec. 22nd
217 Congress Ave. | 479-5002

Hanovers
DRAUGHT HAUS
670-9617 OUTDOOR BIER GARTEN
TRAVIS COUNTY SMOKING ALLOWED
NEW AIR CONDITIONING
THU 12/20 KARAOKE 8:00PM
COME DISPLAY YOUR BIKES IN OUR BACKYARD & ENJOY DRINK SPECIALS ALL DAY & ALL NIGHT
FRI 12/21 ARMADILLO ACTION FIGURES 10PM
SAT 12/22 THE BALLS 80s COVER BAND 10PM
SUN 12/23 FREE POKER 5 & 8PM
MON 12/31 New Year's Eve BASH 3 Amigos
Get pre-sale TIX – 670-9617
$25 a couple, $15 a person
Party Favors, Champagne Toast, and Breakfast Tacos
SAND BEACH VOLLEYBALL
POOL • DARTS
HORSESHOES
www.hanoversaustin.com
myspace.com/hanoversbar

SEASONS MEETINGS!
Meet someone special this holiday season by turning onto Lovers Lane, the Chronicle's online community for hooking up with real people from the Austin area. On Lovers Lane you can read profiles, look at pictures, and listen to voice greetings from people right here in Austin – absolutely free. You can also place your own profile, upload pictures, and record a voice greeting for free. You could be meeting new, interesting people right now. Check out Lovers Lane at austinchronicle.com/loverslane.
Place a profile with a picture before 5pm Monday, December 31, and you could win a $150 GIFT CERTIFICATE to CINDIE'S!
Cindie's
THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE austinchronicle.com
austinchronicle.com/loverslane

LIVE AT The Belmont
Mondays 7-10PM
CHADD THOMAS & THE CRAZY KINGS
Tuesdays 7-10PM
DALE WATSON & HIS LONESTARS
Wednesdays 7-10PM
MR. FABULOUS & CASINO ROYALE
Thursdays 8-11PM
DYSFUNKSHUN JUNKSHUN
Friday 9-12PM
CHADD THOMAS & THE CRAZY KINGS
Saturday 7-10PM
CIENFUEGOS
305 W 6TH • AUSTIN • 457.0300
THEBELMONTAUSTIN.COM

Austin's "Original Swanky Joint"

✦Austin Chronicle's BEST OF AUSTIN WINNER SINCE '97✦

speakeasy

CALL 47-PARTY

THURSDAY, DEC 20 PRIMM

FRIDAY, DEC 21 ROTEL AND THE HOT TOMATOES 9:30PM
DJ ABE ON TERRACE 59

SATURDAY, DEC 22 SAUCE 9:30PM
DJ HOLLAND ON TERRACE 59

SUNDAY, DEC 23 CLOSED

MONDAY, DEC 24 S.I.N. WITH JONATHAN TERRELL ON TERRACE 59

TUESDAY, DEC 25 CHRISTMAS DAY... CLOSED

WEDNESDAY, DEC 26 CLOSED

412-D CONGRESS AVE. • 476-8017
(entrance in the alley) • speakeasyaustin.com

GIRARD DIVERSIFIED

Cuba Libre speakeasy 59 IMPERIA MODERN ASIAN DINING

Plan Your New Year's Eve Now!
Limited Availability...
Call 512-47-PARTY

www.47party.com A Girard Diversified Interest events@47party.com

Sat 22

311 CLUB George Rarey, Joe Valentine (8:30)

ANTONE'S James Bullard, Gary Clark Jr. (9:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Therapy Sisters

AUSTIN CONVENTION CENTER Armadillo Christmas Bazaar w/ the Eggmen, the Derailers, Van Wilks (12:30)

AUSTIN FARMERS' MARKET DOWNTOWN Sara Shansky (10:00am)

BABY ACAPULCO'S NO. 3 Soniquete (8:00)

BEERLAND Bleach Boys

THE BELMONT Cienfuegos (9:00)

'BOUT TIME DJ Element (9:00)

BROKEN SPOKE Geezinslaw Bros. w/ Sam & Son

THE BROWN BAR DJ gmau

THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke w/ Nicole

CEDAR STREET Rayvon (9:30)

CENTRAL MARKET NORTH Dale Watson (6:30)

CLUB IN THE MIX DJ Robert

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Mike Flanigin's B-3 Trio (10:00); In the Club: Redd Volkaert (3:00), LeRoi Brothers, Paul Ray & the Cobras (10:00)

COOL RIVER CAFE Wall Street (9:15)

COPA BAR & GRILL Salsa Lesson w/ Cesar & Rhonda, DJ Alvaro (9:00)

COTTON CLUB People's Choice

DONN'S DEPOT Nash Hernandez Orchestra

EGO'S Matt Giles, Red Line Riot

EL SOL Y LA LUNA Grupo Gruvo (7:30)

ELEPHANT ROOM Ephraim Owens Quintet (9:30)

ELYSIUM Haven w/ DJ Void, the Gothfather (10:30)

EMO'S Bayta Darell, New Roman Times, IV Thieves, Ghost of the Russian Empire

EVANGELINE CAFE Thierry le Coz & Friends Christmas Show

FADÓ The Blaggards (10:00)

GIDDY UPS Chris Browder

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Jason Arnold & the Stepsiders (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Jason Eady (1:00), Eli Young Band (9:00)

GÜERO'S TACO BAR Erin Jaimes & Her Bad Habits (6:30)

HANOVER'S The Balls

HEADHUNTERS Bricks ATX, Lug, Oklahomos

THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE Jason Czeizinger & SuperFantastic Rhythm Sexshun (10:00)

HILL'S CAFE Clay Jeffrey

JOVITA'S Louie's Homemade Jam (7:00)

LA PALAPA Karaoke w/ Big Jim (8:00)

LAMBERTS Marshall Ford Swing Band (6:30), Blaze (10:30)

LUCKY LOUNGE Afrofreque (9:00)

MAGGIE MAE'S Rick Harvey's Blues Happy Hour (6:00)

MEOW Kenny Luna

MOLOTOV Sake One, DJ Chicken George (9:00)

MOMO'S Adrian & the Sickness Birthday Party

NORTH BY NORTHWEST James Thomas

NUTTY BROWN CAFE Andy Bertelsen

THE OAKS Christmas Party w/ James Hand (8:00)

ONE 2 ONE BAR This Life Electric (10:00)

PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Mary Welch y los Curanderos (8:00)

PLUSH Table Manners Crew (10:00)

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Oliver White, Joe "King" Carrasco

RED 7 Eagle Claw, Rend, Seconds From Waking, Slowly Truth Dies, Blood of Patriots

RED EYED FLY Axle Wolf, Phoenix Saga, Three Leaf, LaVonne, Sixes & Eights

RED FEZ Alton Rex, DJ Kurv (8:00)

REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB The Atlantics (8:30)

RENAISSANCE HOTEL Lobby Lounge: Rich DeMarco (6:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Jesse Dayton

THE ROCK ROOM Brandon Raines (9:00)

ROCKIN' TOMATO Wino Vino, Electric Mountain Rotten Apple Gang (10:00)

ROMEO'S GEORGETOWN Kirk Hale (6:30)

ROOM 710 The Flood, Scraps of Life, Rise Thy Ruin, the Dead See

ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE Lofton Kline

SAM'S TOWN POINT Country Gold Band (9:00)

SAXON PUB Guy Forsyth, Gurf Morlix, Cyril Neville, Ruthie Foster, Papa Mali (8:00)

SHAKESPEARE'S PUB Brent Allen (10:00)

SPEAKEASY Sauce (9:30)

STUBB'S Lalaland, Future Clouds & Radar

THE STUDIO Christmas, Anniversary Party w/ DJ Cut Creator, Legit

TEXAS BAR & GRILL Bita Blue

TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL Mirage Jazz Ensemble (7:30)

TRIPLE CROWN Spooky Texas, Thousand Foot Whale Claw, Attic Ted

TROPHY'S Grub Dog & the Modestos

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE CIRCLE C RANCH Brunch w/ Buzz Guerra (11:00am)

Sun 23

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE AT THE RITZ Dark Side of the Rainbow (9:45)

THE ALLIGATOR GRILL Patrick Quinn (5:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Danny Santos

AUSTIN CONVENTION CENTER Armadillo Christmas Bazaar w/ Heybale!, Shelley King, Ponty Bone (12:30)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Irish Tune Session (8:00)

BEERLAND Fire vs. Extinguisher

'BOUT TIME Karaoke w/ Clayton Adams

THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke w/ Brian

CEDAR STREET Suede Austin (9:30)

CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Cienfuegos (12:30)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Mike Flanigin's B-3 Trio (10:00); In the Club: Heybale! (8:00)

COTTON CLUB Can't Hardly Playboyz (7:00)

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00)

EGO'S Robert Banta, Horse Operas, Mallory Valentine

ELYSIUM Regression: Retro Eighties w/ DJ Pumpkin Spice

FRIENDS Open Mic Blues Jam (8:00)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Dale Watson (4:00)

GREEN PASTURES Jacques Vilmain (11:00am)

NEXT MUSIC AUSTIN

A Benefit for the SIMS Foundation

Featuring:

THE HYDMEN
THE DIVING CAPTAIN
ROCKSTROH

SATURDAY, DEC. 29 • STUBB'S

SIMS has been connecting Austin's musicians with mental health and addiction recovery services since 1995. If you need additional info about SIMS, please call 512-472-1008.

THE
most INTERESTING MAN in the WORLD
on HAPPY HOUR
HAPPY HOUR is the HOUR AFTER
EVERYONE from HAPPY HOUR has LEFT.
CERVEZA
XX
DOS EQUIS
STAY THIRSTY, my friends™
www.STAYTHIRSTYMYFRIENDS.com
ENJOY DOS EQUIS® RESPONSIBLY. ©2007 CERVEZAS MEXICANAS, WHITE PLAINS, NY

MOLOTOV LOUNGE
719 W. 6th St. www.molotovlounge.com 512.499.0600
myspace.com/molotovlounge

second annual
NEW YEAR'S EVE
Masquerade Ball
DISCOUNTED PACKAGE TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW
dj mixes by
CHICKENGEORGE
FREE SHUTTLE HOME WITH EACH TICKET
Limited quantity of tickets available

Cheatham Street WAREHOUSE
Austin's far-out music hall in San Marcos
www.cheathamstreet.com
FR ZACK WALTHERS AND THE CRONKITES
CHRISTMAS PARTY WITH...
SA DOCTOR G & THE MUDCATS
TU CLOSED - MERRY XMAS!
WE EVERY WEDNESDAY KENT FINLAY'S SONGWRITERS CIRCLE
CELEBRATE NEW YEAR'S EVE WITH
PONTY BONE
TIX ON SALE NOW!
119 CHEATHAM ST. SAN MARCOS 512-353-3777

the Peacock Lounge
Classic Cocktails
peacock-austin.com

club listings ◂◂ FROM SUNDAY

GRUENE HALL Brian Duckworth & Houston Marchman (12:30), Sylvia Kirk (4:00)

GÜERO'S TACO BAR Eve Monsees (3:00)

THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE Austin Sketch Group (1:30)

HOLE IN THE WALL Danmas Christmas w/ Joey Pescado

HOMER'S BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Brian

JAVA LOUNGE AT AUSTIN JAVA Kinktet (11:00am)

JOHNNY FINS Kent Mayhew (noon)

LAMBERTS Ephraim Owens, Red Young, JJ Johnson (6:30)

LOCKER ROOM SPORTS BAR Ted Hall's Blues Church & Jam (8:30)

LONGBRANCH INN Kult w/ DJ Scorpio (9:00)

MANUEL'S Acoustic Jungle (11:30am)

MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Rockin' Gospel Project (noon)

MERKABA LOUNGE & GRILL S.I.N.S. w/ DJ Tetsuo (9:00)

MOMO'S Jonathan Clay, Jenny Reynolds, Warren Hood & the Hoodlums, Marshall Ford Swing Band (8:00)

MOTHER EGAN'S IRISH PUB Strong Medicine (noon)

NUEVO LEON Mariachi Relampago (1:00)

NUNO'S ON SIXTH The Nortons Christmas Show (10:30)

NUTTY BROWN CAFE Java Jazz (11:00am)

THE OASIS The Brew

THE PARLOR Ralph White

RACK DADDY'S Karaoke w/ Robert Wagner (10:00)

RED FEZ DJ Kurupt (10:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Open Mic w/ Glenn Allen

ROMEO'S Rob Greenfield

ROOM 710 Zenith Fuzzbomb, Bexar County Bastards, More Fire

SALVAGE VANGUARD THEATER Clear Spot, Noisettes, Doug Ferguson, Jheri Siggnfeldt's Atrophied Saq, the Friday Group (6:00)

SAXON PUB The Resentments, Steven Will & the Salingers, Leeann Atherton (7:00)

SCOOT INN AND BIER GARTEN Randy Travis, Randy Weeks (8:00)

SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/ Billy D

STUBB'S Brunch w/ the Gospel Silvertones (11:00am, 1:00)

TEXAS BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Michelle

TRIPLE CROWN Open Mic w/ Pat Pankratz, Holly Aiken, Nate Hinds

TROPHY'S Azoustin

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Sunday Brunch w/ Buzz Guerra

Mon 24

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE AT THE RITZ Head (9:45)

AUSTIN CONVENTION CENTER Armadillo Christmas Bazaar w/ Django's Moustache, Carolyn Wonderland, Texana Dames (12:30)

BEERLAND Christmas Karaoke

THE BELMONT Chadd Thomas & the Crazy Kings (6:30)

'BOUT TIME Karaoke w/ Clayton Adams

CAROUSEL LOUNGE ML Frank

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Three Jazz Collective, Michael Mordecai's Jazz Jam (6:00)

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH Christmas Eve Program w/ Joseph & Sue Martin (5:00)

FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE T. Jarrod Bonta (8:00)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Roots Day w/ Shaun Young

GÜERO'S TACO BAR Trio Indiano (6:30)

HOLE IN THE WALL Diana Bruschke, Larry Graves, Mike Dubose

LUCKY LOUNGE Mazel Ball

SPEAKEASY Under the Stars w/ Jonathan Terrell

TRIPLE CROWN Mark Jungers (6:00)

Tue 25

311 CLUB Soul Kitchen, Station, Diasporic (9:30)

BASTROP SENIOR CENTER The Kitchen Pickers (6:30)

CLUB IN THE MIX Christmas Dance w/ Joe Bravo

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Ephraim Owens (10:00); In the Club: Dale Watson's Christmas Show (10:00)

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mark Goodwin Trio (7:30)

ELEPHANT ROOM Stanley Smith (6:00), Jon Blondell Quartet (9:30)

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH House the Homeless Benefit w/ Rockin' Gospel Project (noon)

HOLE IN THE WALL Debbie & Rusty's Xmas Xaraoke

RUTA MAYA Poetry Open Mic, Music Open Mic (6:00)

TRIPLE CROWN Bob King (6:00)

Z'TEJAS Kris Kimura Quartet (6:00)

Wed 26

219 WEST Breezy (7:00)

311 CLUB Open Mic w/ Stephanie Bradley (9:30)

ABIA: EARL CAMPBELL'S SPORTS BAR Jay Williams (3:30)

ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR Travis Country Pickers (3:30)

ABIA: LEFTY'S BAR & GRILLE ON SIXTH STREET Cleve & Sweet Mary (1:00)

ANTONE'S Lou Ann Barton, Pinetop Perkins (8:00)

APPLEBEE'S NEIGHBORHOOD BAR & GRILL Marty Linville

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Shelley King, Carolyn Wonderland (7:30)

AUSTIN'S PIZZA Natalie Zoe Jazz Trio (8:00)

No Bad Days

Poodie's Hilltop ROADHOUSE

Thursday, December 20
DANNY FAST FINGERS

Friday, December 21
RYAN JAMES

Saturday, December 22
JOE KING CARASSCO
OLIVER WHITE GROUP
OPENER

Tuesday, December 25
CLOSED

Wednesday, December 26
OPEN MIC WITH FOND KISER
8PM

New Year's Eve
RAY WYLIE HUBBARD
TIX ON SALE

Free WiFi • Home of the Best Cheeseburgers in Texas!
Hwy 71 West,
SPICEWOOD
www.poodies.com
264-0318

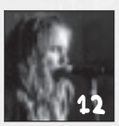
momos REAL LIVE MUSIC
618 WEST 6TH ST // ABOVE KATZ'S // 6TH & RIO GRANDE
479-8848 // WWW.MOMOSCLUB.COM // MYSPACE.COM/MOMOSCLUB

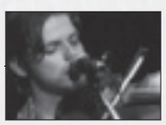
THURSDAY DECEMBER 20

WILL EVANS PROJECT
N N N
HIS S T
EVERY OTHER FATE 1

FRIDAY DECEMBER 21

CO A
TROY DILLINGER
BEN V
MATTHEW BALLARD 8
MI H I

SATURDAY DECEMBER 22
AD N

12
THE SICKNESS
HDAY BASH
VELVET BRICK
SKYBL E
DIRT & EARTHVIBES 8

SUNDAY DECEMBER 23
WARREN HOOD

& THE HOODLUMS
E A 8
R AN

TUESDAY DECEMBER 25
MERRY ROCKIN CHRISTMAS
CLOSED X AS DAY

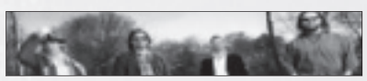
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 26
CH STMAS
W

MISS LAVELLE WHITE
RUTH 8
F

ALAN HAYNES

SATURDAY DECEMBER 29
ADVANCE TICKETS ON SALE NOW
WWW.STRINGSATTACHED.ORG
WI
TA R

A HED
JIMI HENDRIX SHOW 8
SGT W

NEW YEARS EVE!!
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT
WWW.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM
THE B N
OF H HENS


DAN DYER
COVER
PO DAVIS

UPCOMING SHOWS
SETH WAL
SOUTH AUSTIN JUG BAND

Saxon Pub
1320 S Lamar www.thesaxonpub.com 448-2552

CAROLYN 8:00 $8
WONDERLAND
GEORGE DEVORE 8:00 $8

UNCLE LUCIUS 12:30 $5
No Cover Happy Hour 6:00 with Bo Porter
Thursday Dec. 20

107.1 KGSR
LONE STAR STATE OF MIND RADIO SHOW
WARREN HOOD $10 11:45
GREEZY WHEELS
MARYANN PRICE, BOB LIVINGSTON, & FRIENDS $10 9:00
No Cover Happy Hour 6:00 with The REGULARS
Friday Dec. 21

Soul of South Austin X-mas Party
WITH THE 8:00 $15
GOLDEN CROWN HARMONIZERS
AND JOINED BY
PAPA MALI
RUTHIE FOSTER
GUY FORSYTH
CYRIL NEVILLE
& GURF MORLIX
GEORGE DEVORE
Saturday Dec. 22 12:00 $10

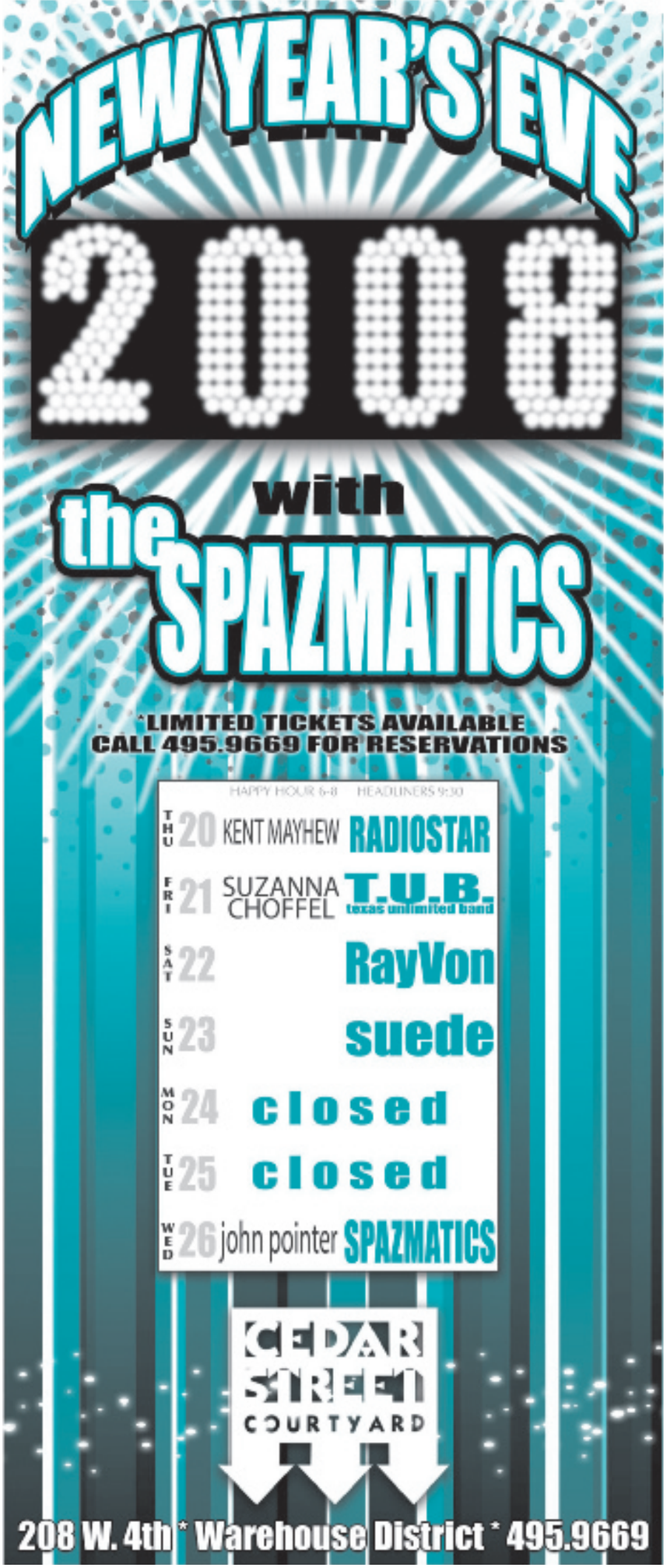
THE RESENTMENTS
7:00 $5 cover
THE SALINGERS 10:00
LEEANN ATHERTON & Z FROM THE RED ELVISES 12:00
Sunday Dec. 23

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE SAXON PUB!
WE WILL BE CLOSED
DECEMBER 24TH & 25TH

MONTE MONTGOMERY 10:00 $10 cover

PAULA NELSON 8:00 $5
MEAGAN TUBB 12:00 $5
No Cover Happy Hour 6:00 Hans Frank & the Auslanders
Wednesday Dec. 26

December 28th - $15 - 2 Shows
with the Asylum Street Spankers
NEW YEAR'S EVE WITH
MONTE MONTGOMERY
& PAULA NELSON $20.00
TICKETS ON SALE NOW!
WWW.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM
www.thesaxonpub.com



club listings ◂◂ FROM WEDNESDAY

BABY ACAPULCO'S NO. 5 Singer-Songwriter Open Mic w/ Jimi Lee

THE BELMONT Mr. Fabulous & Casino Royale (7:00)

CEDAR STREET John Pointer, the Spazmatics (6:00)

CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Jacob Wise Trio (6:30)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Kent Finlay's Songwriters Circle (9:00)

CHEZ ZEE AMERICAN BISTRO Jacinta (7:00)

CLUB 973 Karaoke w/ the Bigg Sho (8:30)

CLUB DE VILLE Psychotropic w/ DJ Scorpio, DJ Whiplash

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Trube, Farrell & Sniz (10:00); In the Club: Shotgun Party Caritas Benefit, Jon Dee Graham, James McMurtry (10:30)

CREEKSIDE LOUNGE Kill the DJ, Smash-Ups, Robot, DJ Alib, Ghettotech w/ DJ Orion (9:30)

CUBA LIBRE Havana Nights w/ the Cadaques (8:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Frank & the Station Masters

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mark Goodwin Trio (7:00)

EGO'S Ego's Trip (8:30)

ELEPHANT ROOM Jazz Pharoahs (6:00), Mark O'Connor Quartet (9:30)

ELYSIUM Mid Wave w/ DJ Pumpkin Spice, DJ Edminister

EVANGELINE CAFE Eric Hisaw, Chrissy Flatt (7:00)

FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE Michael Fracasso Piano Hour, Nathan Hamilton, Kevin Carroll (6:00)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Johnny Apparatus

FRANK ERWIN CENTER Trans-Siberian Orchestra *Chrontourage event* (7:30)

GIDDY UPS Jodi Adair & Ted Hall, Open Blues Jam w/ JJ Slyde (7:00)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Roger Wallace (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Dan McCoy (1:00), Zach Walther & the Cronkites (7:00)

GÜERO'S TACO BAR Los Flames (6:00)

HANOVER'S Open Mic w/ Armadillo Action Figures

HEADHUNTERS Spitting Bullets, Panther Zora

THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE Chase Holbrook's Stylists' Showcase (8:00)

HOLE IN THE WALL Paul Minor, Lonesome Heroes (10:00)

HOMER'S BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Brian

LAMBERTS Erik Hokkanen's Gypsy Tribe (6:30)

LAS PALOMAS Javier Chaparro, Rick McRae, Terry Hale, Art Kidd (6:30)

LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Electric Mayhem (9:00)

MAGGIE MAE'S Patrick Fleming (10:00)

MOMO'S Christmas Party w/ Ruthie Foster, Miss Lavelle White, Alan Haynes

MULLIGAN'S Karaoke w/ Stormy (9:00)

THE OAKS Cade Callahan's East Side Hayride (7:00)

ONE 2 ONE BAR Jeffrey David & Ady Hernandez (10:00)

PARMER LANE TAVERN Pete Benz (9:00)

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Open Mic w/ Fond Kiser

REALE'S PIZZA & CAFE "Frankly" Singing w/ Ken Kruse (6:30)

REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Marc Devine Quartet w/ Denia Ridley (8:30)

RENAISSANCE HOTEL Lobby Lounge: Rich DeMarco (6:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Shawn Line

ROADHOUSE Karaoke w/ Billy D.

ROOM 710 Primal Rape

ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE James Martin

RUTA MAYA Salsa Lessons, Cienfuegos (7:30)

SAXON PUB Ten-City Run (6:00), Paula Nelson, Monte Montgomery, Leeann Atherton (8:00)

SCOOT INN AND BIER GARTEN Austin Poetry Slam (7:00)

SHOAL CREEK SALOON Eve Monsees & the Exiles (7:30)

TRIPLE CROWN Erickson (6:00)

VICTORY GRILL The Blues Specialists

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Ptarmigan (7:00)

DRUMS/PERCUSSION
WE ARE the last sunrise rock, progressive, alternative, metal, experimental 21...

OTHER
looking for a hotshot lead player that is dedicated, professional, vocalist and harmony singer a plus for a working Variety wedding band playing Classic...

Find these and more great MUSICIANS WANTED ads in the *Chronicle* Classifieds.

TRADE UP

THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE austinchronicle.com

PLACE YOUR FREE AD: austinchronicle.com/tradeup

RED RIVER DISTRICT
LIVE MUSIC
7 days a week

NOW OPEN EARLIER!
5PM-2AM M-F
7PM-2AM SAT & SUN
the side bar
(EVERYBODY NEEDS A LITTLE ON THE SIDE)
602 EAST 7TH ST.
322.0697
WWW.THESIDEBARAUSTIN.COM

480.5988
606 east 7th st.
fri-sat 5pm
sun-thur 7pm
CREEKSIDE LOUNGE
monday movies 8pm ★ tues guitar hero 10pm
free live music wed & thur ★ wii & pinball machines
happy hour daily till 9pm & all night thursday
schedule & event listings at thecreeksidelounge.com

ROOM 710
710 Red River St.
476-0997
21+ Up
room710.net
Mon-Wed: $2 Lone Stars $3 Wells
Smokin' Rock on Red River

Thu 12.20
CYCLE OF VIOLENCE
REND
STONE DAKOTA

Fri 12.21
THE HOOD RATS
THE NEGATIVES
CHEMICALS "R" GO
SECRET WEAPONS

Sat 12.22
THE DEAD SEE
RISE THY RUIN
SCRAPS OF LIFE
THE FLOOD

Sun 12.23
MORE FIRE
BEXAR COUNTY BASTARDS
STICKITIN From Portland, OR
ZENITH FUZZBOMB

Mon 12.24
CLOSED
EATING CHINESE FOOD

Tue 12.25
HEART & SOUL
SOUND SYSTEM

Wed 12.26
PRIMAL RAPE
+TBA

UPCOMING SHOWS
12.27 Black Jesus, Skeletons, Titty Babies 12.29 Sarcolytic, HCID, Pleasant Valley 12.31 Dead End Cruisers, Ignorance Party, The Bulemics, Teen Cool

Beauty BAR
Dec
20th Christmas Champagne Jam
bad sweater attire please
21st Sydney Confirm/PLID
Dj Prince Klassen/Dj Jester
22nd SWOLL + Dj Mel
26th Tighten up Wednesday
Best Photo Booth In Austin
617 E. 7th myspace.com/beautybaraustin
www.beautybar.com 512.391.1942

HEADHUNTERS
720 Red River www.headhuntersclub.com (512) 236-0188
THU 12/20 > BLACK TOE DOWN, LEFT OUT, EARTHTONE PLAYERS
FRI 12/21 > AMPLIFIED HEAT, SWEET SKULL, PILLCRUSHER, PEDICAB MATT (HH)
SAT 12/22 > THE OKLAHOMOS, LUG, THE BRICKS ATX
SUN 12/23 > RED RIVER HOLIDAY PARTY 2-9PM Potluck Dinner FREE Turkey/Ham – Bring a Dish $1 Off Drinks ALL NIGHT LONG • MON 12/24 > CLOSED CHRISTMAS EVE HAPPY HOLIDAYS!
TUE 12/25 > CLOSED "MERRY CHRISTMAS" • WED 12/26 > OPEN: PANTHER ZORA, SPITTING BULLETS
UPCOMING >> THU 12/27 - SUPERCRASH, JOKER • FRI 12/28 - DEVOLA, FOR THE MOST PART, FULL STRIDE
SAT 12/29 - COBRETTI, HIT AND RUN • SUN 12/30 - ANSWER ME THIS, PARKER CITY LIMIT
MON 12/31 - "HAPPY NEW YEAR" BUS STOP STALLIONS, SUNGLASSES & MUSHROOMS
PARTY CATERING : LIQUOUR & FOOD EVENTS (825-5600)

RED EYED FLY
Live Music
715 RED RIVER AUSTIN, TEXAS
WWW.REDEYEDFLY.COM

THURSDAY DECEMBER 20
WOOLGATHER
SNAKESKIN PRISON
ONE MISTAKE AWAY
TURNCOAT
FRIDAY-DECEMBER 21
SCRAPS OF LIFE
PSYCHOSTICK
PEYTON GIN
THE HOMICIDES
SATURDAY-DECEMBER 22
SIXES & EIGHTS
LAVONNE
THREE LEAF
AXLE-WOLF
SUNDAY-DECEMBER 23
THE BULLSHIT ARTIST
AMBELLINA
MONDAY-DECEMBER 24
CHRISTMAS EVE
NO BANDS
JUST MATTNEW IN THE LOUNGE @ 9PM
TUESDAY-DECEMBER 25
CHRISTMAS DAY
NO BANDS
SARA BETH IN THE LOUNGE @ 9PM
WEDNESDAY-DECEMBER 26
SLICK DICKINS
BLACK MARKET REVIVAL
MORE BANDS TBA
THURSDAY-DECEMBER 27
NY DEVASTATOR
MANIFESTO
TESTIMONY OF THE FALLEN
FRIDAY-DECEMBER 28
LUG
ALL IS TAKEN
DEAD HAVEN
GRAVE EDEN
BACK AT GOLIAD
SATURDAY-DECEMBER 29
SECONDS FROM WAKING
8 SYSTEMS
KRITICKILL
SILENCED
LOUDER THAN LUNACY
UPCOMING SHOWS
12-31 NEW YEARS EVE W/THE STUMMIES, NEW DISASTER, SAY HELLO TO THE ANGELS, THE KEYMAKER 3
01-04 DUKE, DEVOLA, EXIT THE SUN, FULL STRIDE, SEDUCH
01-05 HEARTBREAK IN ACTION, MOSTLY DEAD, EVILDOERS, CHARLIE RAILROAD
01-06 KAHKI, LOS HISPANOS D.K.
for private parties and info call: 512-474-1084

ELYSIUM
705 RED RIVER ST.

Thursday • Dec. 20 SPECIAL EVENT!
ELECTRO SHOCK
Indie Clash & Retro Trash
WITH DJ SIREN SUMMER & GUESTS

Friday • Dec. 21 SPECIAL EVENT!
THE NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS PARTY
featuring & Toy Drive
a Holiday themed costume contest (no clowns)
Pictures with & Presents from... Sandy Claws!
get in free if you bring a toy for donation

Saturday • Dec. 22 HAVEN
goth, INDUSTRIAL, synthpop, & EURODANCE
HAVEN WITH DJs VOID & THE GOTHFATHER

Sunday • Dec. 23 REGRESSION
RETRO 80's RETRO 80's RETRO 80's
REGRESSION WITH DJ PUMPKIN SPICE

Monday • Dec. 24 CLOSED
closed...for the rest of us...

Tuesday • Dec. 25 CLOSED
...still recovering from the feats of strength...

Wednesday • Dec. 26 MID-WAVE
UNDERGROUND retro & OLD SCHOOL goth
WITH DJs PUMPKIN SPICE & EDMINISTER

UPCOMING EVENTS
Friday Dec. 28 • PDA - Indie, Electro, Brit Pop, New Wave, Post Punk with DJ Filthy Rich
Friday January 18 • LIVE!
INFORMATION SOCIETY
tickets available at Secret Oktober

21+ only • doors @ 9:30 PM unless specified
more detailed information available at:
www.elysiumonline.net • (512) 478-2979
• www.myspace.com/elysiumaustin •

RED 7
611 E. 7TH STREET

Thu 12/20
13th Victim, Destroy Everything
Knocked Out Stiffs, Marked
Bad Motivators

Fri 12/21
Angel Von Ripper Presents:
A VERY COMMIE CHRISTMAS w/
The Golden Boys, Whitman
Van Buren Boys, Magic Jewels

Sat 12/22
Early Show (7pm-9pm):
Resident Hero
Late Show (9pm):
Blood of Patriots, Rend
Eagle Claw, Slowly Truth Dies
Seconds From Waking

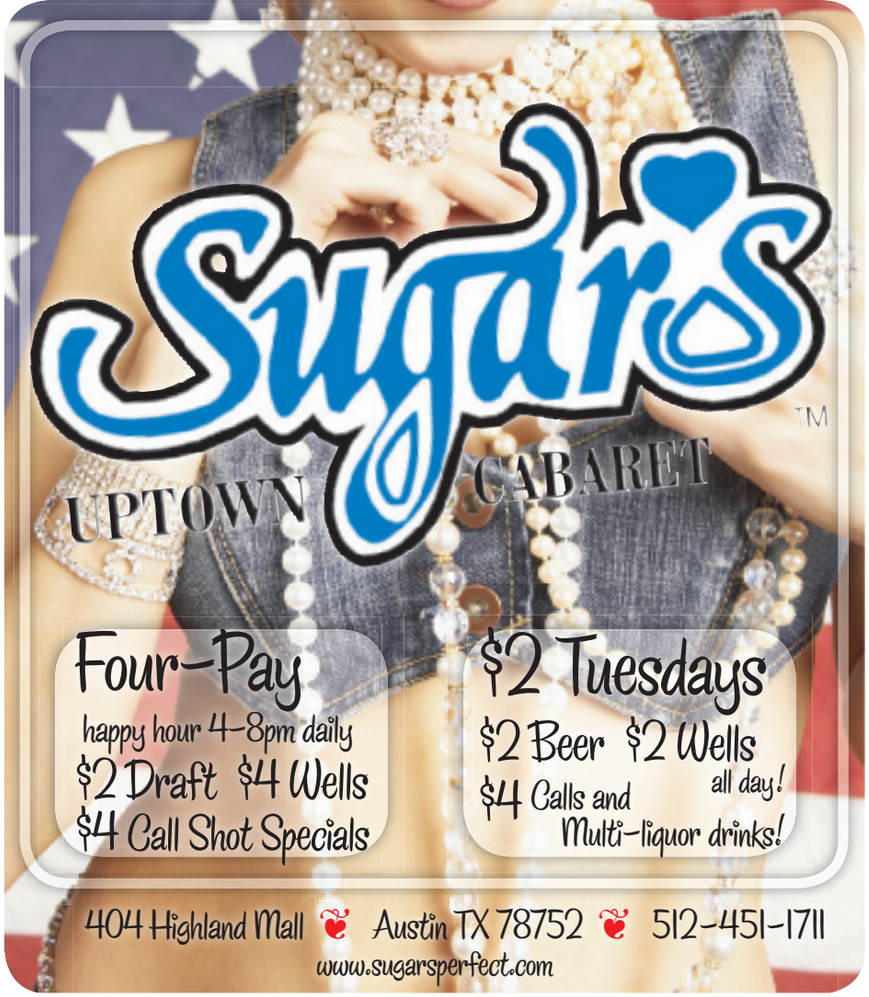
Sun 12/23
Senseless Metal Productions Showcase

Fri 12/28
Seaflea, Consider The Source
Like Dogs, Beta Player
Best Love In Town

BEER LAND TEXAS

th 20 Worst Bands in Austin Showcase– Shitty Beach Boys, Comanche Abortion, Jesus Causes Cancer, Destroyed for Comfort
fr 21 Forever Changes, Muswell Hillbillies (fea. Brothers & Sisters), Hacienda, Blitzens @ 8pm
sa 22 Career Criminal, Bleach Boys, Black Power in Vietnam, Naw Dude
su 23
mo 24 Karaoke Christmas @9pm, Special Guest Host Santa with presents for good boys and girls
tu 25 closed
we 26 closed
th 27 The Dirty Sound
fr 28 Plexi 3, Teeners, Little Bobby Bleed's One Man Band, The Pepperonis, 8pm New Sensational Brownies
sa 29 Red River Round Robin 2

711 1/2 Red River 512-479-ROCK
beerlandtexas.com 21+only



club listings ◂◂ FROM WEDNESDAY

Y BAR & GRILL Singer-Songwriter Night (6:30)

Z'TEJAS Will Sexton, Stephen Doster, Philip Gibbs (6:00)

Thu 27

219 WEST Acoustic Jungle (8:00)

311 CLUB Joe Valentine (8:30)

ABIA: EARL CAMPBELL'S SPORTS BAR Hudson Mueller (3:30)

ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR Sunset Valley Boys (3:30)

ABIA: LEFTY'S BAR & GRILLE ON SIXTH STREET Brian Hudson (12:30)

ANTONE'S Arc Angels (9:00)

AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735 Homer Henderson (9:00)

THE BELMONT Dysfunkshun Junkshun (8:00)

BENNIGAN'S Andy Fiegal (7:00)

BROKEN SPOKE Jesse Dayton

THE BROWN BAR DJ gmau

CAROUSEL LOUNGE George Kinney & the Cedar Creekers, Jessica Graves, World Racketeering Squad

CEDAR STREET Kent Mayhew, Radiostar (6:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Trio Gallerio; In the Club: Nathan Singleton's Sideshow Tragedy, O.A., Dustin Welch (10:00)

COOL RIVER CAFE The Max

COPA BAR & GRILL Salsa Lessons w/ Tony, the Brew (8:00)

COTTON CLUB Texas All-Stars (8:30)

DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mark Goodwin Trio (7:30)

EGO'S Billy Dee, 2 Hoots & a Holler

ELEPHANT ROOM Joe Cordi, David Chenu Quintet (6:00)

EVANGELINE CAFE Craig Toungate (7:00)

FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE Matt the Electrician & Southpaw Jones (8:00)

GIDDY UPS Open Mic w/ Roy & Ted (8:30)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Hans Frank & the Auslanders (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Ed Jurdi (1:00), Rob Roy Parnell (6:00)

HANOVER'S Karaoke w/ Dan the Man

HEADHUNTERS Joker, Supercrash

THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE Enrique Rumiche & the Peruvasaurus Rexes (9:30)

HILL'S CAFE Brent Allen (7:00)

HOMER'S BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Brian

JOVITA'S The Cornell Hurd Band (8:00)

LAMBERTS Glover Tango (6:30), Suzanna Choffel (10:30)

THE LOADING DOCK Breezy

LUCKY LOUNGE Ian McLagan & the Bump Band, Subrosa Union

MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Nathan Hubble, Michael Clay (7:00)

MOMO'S David Scher, Shawn Fussell, Dedringers, Ricky Stein (8:00)

ONE 2 ONE BAR AJ Vallejo & Zach Baker Jam Session (10:00)

THE PARLOR Knights

PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Joel Hofmann (8:00)

RED EYED FLY Manifesto

RED FEZ Twilight Broadcast, Weekend Warm-Up (8:30)

REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Date Night w/ Dale Watson (7:30)

RENAISSANCE HOTEL Lobby Lounge: Rich DeMarco (6:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Flywood

THE ROCK ROOM Karaoke w/ DJ Trip

ROOM 710 Titty Babies, the Skeletons, Black Jesus

SAXON PUB The Fabs, Carolyn Wonderland, George Devore, 11-Fingered Charlie (6:00)

SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/ Billy D.

STUBB'S Ars Supernova, the Frontier Brothers, Plane of Existence

T.C.'S LOUNGE Michael Holt & the Trophy 500's (10:00)

TROPHY'S Autons, Rage Against the Doo, the Earthtone Players

WHISKY BAR Butcher Bear, the Snake Trap, Thulsa Doom

Z'TEJAS Lucky Strikes (6:00)

APHRODITE'S
AN UNINHIBITED NIGHT CLUB FOR ADVENTUROUS COUPLES
An elegant, sensuous evening never to be forgotten
NEW YEAR'S EVE BALL
See web for all the extravagant details.
For 2008: Best wishes for our current members and new members joining in the year to come.
Hotel party begins 3:00PM on NYE.
Free transport to and from club. Must reserve immediately to guarantee both club and hotel. See Events & Forums at:
www.aphroditesforum.com D.J. - B.Y.O.B. - 928-9876

Quest™

Try it FREE

San Antonio
210-457-1111
Other Cities
1-888-257-5757

Mobile pay, text "QUEST" to 77003
$9.99/15min

Austin USE CODE: 4000
512-474-1111

questchat.com

18+. No liability. Restrictions apply.

PAY BY PHONE:
1-900-484-2525

Try SEXY Chat for FREE

Mobile pay, text "SEXY" to 96669
$9.99/15min

210-447-2020

AFTER hours

Austin 512-381-0101

1-900-287-0000 $25/25min

18+. No liability. Restrictions apply.

PROTECT THE **FAMILY JEWELS.** KEEP THEM IN A **SAFE PLACE.**

Planned Parenthood

For smart answers to all your questions about sex, birth control, STDs, pregnancy, and HIV. Confidential sexual health services for men and women of all ages and income levels.

CALL: 800.230.PLAN

WWW.PPAUSTIN.ORG

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS?

Heat it up with a turn onto Easy Street. 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, you can meet real people from right here in Austin who share your interests and lifestyle. Browse ads, looks at pictures, read profiles – all absolutely free.

Place a profile with a photo on Easy Street by 5pm, Monday, Dec. 31, and you'll be entered to win a $150 gift certificate from TABU!

Tabu

PUT DOWN THE PAPER AND TURN ONTO EASY STREET

THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE
austinchronicle.com

austinchronicle.com/easystreet

AAA NEWS AUSTIN TEXAS USA EARTH

Tera Patrick Special
*Two Movies, $4.95 each!!**

Looking for some naughty toys to go under your Christmas tree? We have such a wonderful selection of novelties, we could open our own petting zoo with Rabbits, Butterflys, Dolphins and more!!

Austin's Finest Selection of Adult New Releases, DVDs and Magazines! Thousands of XXX Movies on DVD from Vivid, Evil Angel, Jules Jordan, Bang Bus, Digital Playground, Red Light, Wicked, Anabolic & More! Rent 2, Get 1 FREE, Everyday!!
Adult Novelties - Manga - Anime - Magazines - Gifts
*While Supplies Last

New From Vivid!!
12/13/07

NORTHWEST
11657 Research
Near Duval
343-1195

Looking for New Locations

XXXcitel
2055 S. Lamar
at Oltorf
440-8626

XXX SUPERSTORE
15316 N. IH 35
At Marker 248
990-2144

FAR SOUTH
6524 S. Congress
N of Wm. Cannon
445-6116

WE CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO OUR

XXXMAS PARTY

Ricks CABARET AUSTIN

Austin's #1 Gentlemen's Club!

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

FEATURING

JADE SIMONE ST CLAIR!

THE #1 MOST WINNING TITLE HOLDER IN THE ADULT INDUSTRY

$1.75 DRINKS FROM OPEN TO 11PM EVERYDAY

AS SEEN ON TV

PLAYBOY TV
E CHANNEL
HBO'S REAL SEX
MTV
FITNESS CHANNEL
CINEMAX
20/20

THURSDAY 20TH @ 9PM & MIDNIGHT
FRIDAY 21ST @ 6PM, 9PM & MIDNIGHT
SATURDAY 22ND 9PM & MIDNIGHT

AUSTIN • SAN ANTONIO • HOUSTON • FORT WORTH • NEW ORLEANS • MINNEAPOLIS • CHARLOTTE • MIAMI • NEW YORK CITY

8110 SPRINIGDALE ROAD • 512.929.3939

Visit our Website at www.ricks.com and for an Investor Relations Packet, please email ir@ricks.com.

AUSTIN'S ONE AND ONLY NUDE ENTERTAINMENT

MONDAY NIGHT MADNESS
$5 DANCES
7-11pm

TUESDAYS & SUNDAYS
$10 DANCES

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS
OIL WRESTLING
matches at
10:30pm & Midnight

$10 cover
AT THE DOOR WEDNESDAYS AFTER 6PM

$5 off
WITH THIS AD AND COLLEGE ID

XTC cabaret

BYOB • 18 & UP

3501 ANDTREE BLVD
512.929.3558

$2.99 STEAK & FRIES
FROM OPEN 11AM TO 6PM DAILY

ADULT SERVICES

ESCORTS

ASIAN FLOWER
512-584-3639
SOUTH LOCATION

HAPPY HOLIDAYS
GFE, YOUNG, HOT GREEN-EYED BEAUTY READY TO PLAY IN/OUT 24/7
(512) 317-7639

ASIAN SPICE GIRL
South, near Downtown
512.506.1125

CHEYENNE 24/7
IN/OUT 659-6469

HOT SEXY LATINA
Who wants to rub you down
$100/hr.
573-5325

ADULT PLEASURES
BBW 803-9328

36 D-LIGHT!!
SEXY PRETTY BRUNETTE
(512) 306-0006

MAGICAL HANDS
Soothe & Pleasure w/Sensual Rub; Sultry 40's female.
Upscale, 619-9079, Gwyneth.

ELEGANT INCALL
RAMESSES
Mon-Thu til 2am
Wkds til 3am (Stop by after Last Call!) Sun Noon-2am
NEW GIRLS!
$10 OFF WEDNESDAYS!
(512) 420-2271 Now Hiring!

100% REAL & FUN
Young & Sexy
512-945-8920

ASIAN PRETTY
NORTH LOCATION
512.563.7753

LET JASMINE MELT YOU
Rub down by pretty, sexy, petite, brunette, over 40. Dwntwn/In calls. 422-5186

SWEET ASIAN
(512) 323-5628
51st Street

UT MISTRESSES
GET WHAT U WANT!
YOUNG, HOT, & KINKY
24/7 512-673-6208

ALL NATURAL
Upscale and Discreet
Attractive, Fun 38DD
183 / Burnet AREA
973-8786 M-F 9-4pm

Asian Sunflower
South Location
www.AsianSunflower.com
(512)848-1221

SWEDISH, SWEET
Light touch. Full body rub. Exquisite, Feels so good. Tel:441-4019 In calls only

HOT ASIAN
IN/OUT CALLS
512.496.6584

Slutty Ways
ANYTHING GOES!!!!!
GFE-GREEK-FETISHES
All Nighters Avail. 904-0423

PRIVATE INCALL
Sexy brunette, adult fun
38DD, 120lbs, 5'5", 37yrs
183/Braker, 844-9367

JUST TURNED 18
Real young hotties
24-7 in and out
512-552-8145

$100 SPECIAL SEXY SOCCER MOM
VERY SEXY... VERY ATTRACTIVE... VERY BUSTY!
Home Alone All Day!
CALL 512-963-1705

XXX
ESCORTS
BARELY LEGAL
call: 512-323-2900
XXX

ENTERTAINMENT

#1 Hotmovies.com
80,000 movies, 1,400 studios
No Memberships!
.08 minute
First 10 minutes Free!

Get Sex Tonight!
Hot Babes talk dirty.
Call NOW to try
SEXY Chat for FREE! 18+.
Austin: 512-381-0101
San Antonio: 210-447-2020

SEXY URBAN SINGLES!
Call FREE! Chat NOW!
512-381-2424
Call to hook-up now! 18+

SO MANY GUYS!
LIVE CHAT!
Listen and respond to ALL ads FREE!
(512)480-8400
Free Code 4329
Or Meet by Internet
www.megamates.com

MEN CALL
1-800-373-DATE .69
Ladies Talk to Men Nationwide
1-800-856-TALK FREE!

HOT LOCAL SINGLES are waiting to chat with you! 18+.
CALL FREE! CHAT NOW!
Austin: 512-474-1111
Houston: 713-595-1111
San Antonio: 210-457-1111
Waco: 254-235-0909
Other Cities: 1-888-257-5757

WHERE SINGLES MEET
Listen & Respond FREE!
(512)457-1900
18+. Free Code 7141
www.megamates.com

Austin's Naughtiest Girls
Call 512-735-7000
Enter FREE code: 6389

TALK TO A MODEL
24 HOURS
$11-$18 FOR 15 MIN.
FREE PREVIEW
(949)722-2222
www.uslove.com

WHERE 2 GUYS MEET
GAY & BI VOICE PERSONALS
Listen & Respond to ALL ads FREE!
(512)480-8400
18+, Free Code 5676
www.megamates.com

#1 Escorts Sites
Callgirls.com &
EscortReviews.com
Schedules
Reviews
Profiles

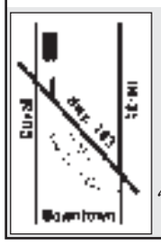
MEET HOT LOCALS ON NIGHTLINE NOW!
Instant live phone conversations with local women and men. 18+.
Austin: 512-493-0000
Houston: 713-341-0300
San Antonio: 210-477-1500

EMPLOYMENT

DANCERS

DANCERS WANTED
$100 Per Hour Guaranteed
+ Tips
Have Fun & Get Rich
512-383-9090

$400-$800 DAY!
NOW HIRING
LINGERIE MODELS
New Management!
Central Location!
Flexible Hours!
Avalon Executive Retreat
(512) 627-5774

The Doll House
GENTLEMEN & COUPLES WELCOME
EVERY DAY SPECIALS


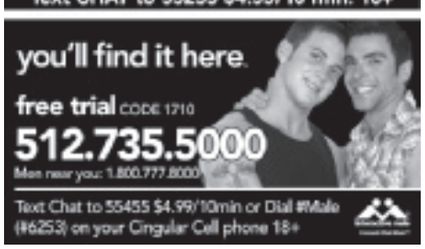
Hwy 183 @ Duval
345-9445
Open 10AM-3AM
AMEX/VISA/MC
"We aim to please"

Where Local GIRLS Go Wild!

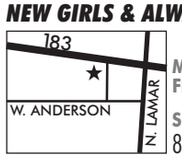
AUSTIN
512-735-7000
Try For FREE
RedHot dateline
Other Local Numbers 1-800-700-6666
Use FREE Code 5021 RedhotDateline.com

tango

CALL NOW!
512.735.0000
Other Cities: 1.800.300.0300
FREE TRIAL CODE 8011
Speed Dating
Text CHAT to 55255 $4.99/10 min. 18+



RAMESSES I
LIGHT TOUCH • RUBDOWNS

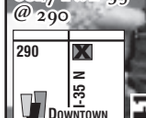
$10 OFF ANY SESSION WEDNESDAYS
NEW GIRLS & ALWAYS HIRING!
512.420.2271


MON-THU 10AM-2AM
FRI-SAT 10AM-3AM (STOP BY AFTER LAST CALL!)
SUN NOON-2AM
8000 Anderson Square, Ste.111

Temptations Lingerie
LINGERIE & FETISH MODELING & GIFTS
Come be tempted

ARE YOU ON THE NAUGHTY LIST?
COME GET TWICE THE NICE FOR HALF THE PRICE
1/2 OFF YOUR SECOND VISIT 12/15/07-01/15/08

OPEN 11AM-3AM 7 DAYS A WEEK
NOW HIRING 512.552.0700
15605 Connie St. • 512.284.9300

454-3442
MON-SAT 11A-4A
SUNDAY 12P-2A
HOTTER SHOWS!
LOWER PRICES!
PRETTIER GIRLS!
PRIVATE ROOMS!
NOW HIRING
CALL 627-5774
FOR INFO
6027 N. I-35 @ 290


AVALON
EXECUTIVE RETREAT

GAY & BI LOCALS
CALL • CRUISE CONNECT
SO MANY GUYS - Listen & Reply to Ads FREE!

MEGA phone
Austin
512.480.8400
FREE Code 4329
For other cities call (888) MegaMates
MegaMates.com VISIT US ONLINE
24/7 Friendly Customer Care 1(888)MegaMates 18+ ©2007 PC LLC

Over a Decade of Great Dates!
CALL • LISTEN DATE
Listen to 1000's of Local Singles FREE!

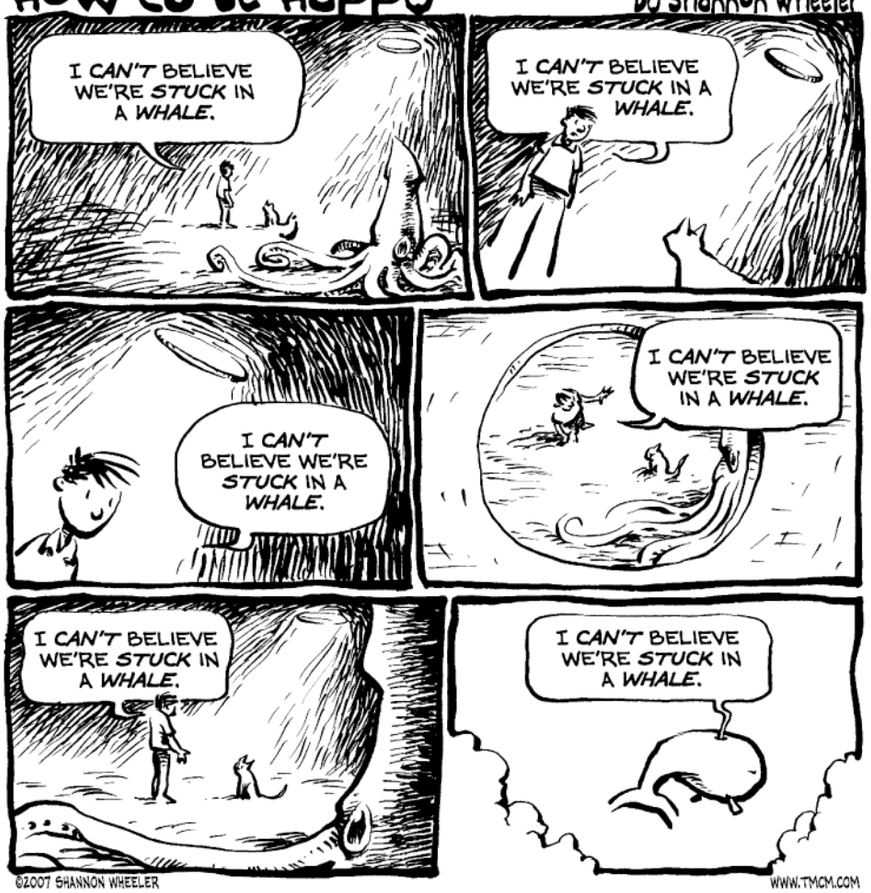
Austin
512.457.1900
FREE Code 8937
For other cities call (888) MegaMates
MegaMates.com VISIT US ONLINE
24/7 Friendly Customer Care 1(888)MegaMates 18+ ©2007 PC LLC

Mardi Gras
24 HRS!
NUDE SHOWS
GARDEN TYPE ATMOSPHERE
PRIVATE SUITES
10600 N. IH-35
west side of IH-35 between Braker & Rundberg
NOW HIRING
832-8858

COMICS

How to Be Happy

by Shannon Wheeler



©2007 SHANNON WHEELER

WWW.TMCM.COM

TROUBLETOWN

BY LLOYD DANGLE

©2007 WWW.TROUBLETOWN.COM

MR. SMARTY PANTS KNOWS

Seven in eight couples married in 2005 did not meet online.

According to *Time* magazine, Picasso was so superstitious that he refused to donate his old clothes to his gardener, "lest some of his genius rub off."

In the *Star Trek* episode "The City on the Edge of Forever," Capt. Kirk, Mr. Spock, and Dr. McCoy end up in the early 20th century. Parts of the episode were filmed on the set of *The Andy Griffith Show*, and in one shot, William Shatner and guest star Joan Collins walk in front of Floyd's Barber Shop.

When he traveled, Gen. George Custer took 22 greyhounds with him to keep him company and help him hunt.

"Scot" is from an Old Norse word meaning a payment or contribution and is linked to the modern French *écot*, a share of communal expenses. The expression "scot free" derives from a medieval municipal tax levied in proportional shares on inhabitants, often for aid to the poor.

The above is information that Mr. Smarty Pants read in a book, a magazine, or the newspaper; heard on the radio; saw on television; or overheard at a party. Got facts? Write to Mr. Smarty Pants at the Chronicle, or e-mail **mrpants@austinchronicle.com.**

TRADE UP CLASSIFIEDS

454-5767

austinchronicle.com/tradeup

100 JOBS

110 Art/Design
115 Beauty/Salon/Spa
120 Entertainment/Casting
125 General
130 Healthcare
135 Hospitality
140 Legal
145 Office/Clerical
150 Non-Profit
155 Professional
160 Research Study
165 Retail
170 Sales/Marketing
175 School/Training
180 Technical

200 HOUSING

210 Reader Notice
215 Apartment/Condo/Townhome
220 Duplex/Houses
225 Vacation
230 Commercial
235 Roommates
240 Real Estate For Sale

300 BUY/SELL/TRADE

310 Antiques/Collectibles
315 Appliances
320 Baby/Kids Stuff
325 Clothing
330 Computers
335 Electronics
340 Free Stuff
345 Furniture
350 Garage/Estate Sales
355 General
360 Jewelry/Accessories
365 Pets/Pet Supplies
370 Recreational
375 Tickets/Entertainment
380 Tools
385 Trades
390 Wanted to Buy

400 SERVICES

410 Business
415 Computers
420 Counseling
425 Health/Wellness
430 Home
435 Financial
440 Fitness/Training
445 Legal
450 Licensed Massage
455 Psychic/Astrology
460 Travel
465 Miscellaneous

500 NEIGHBORHOOD

510 Activites
515 Classes/Workshops
520 Discussion Groups
525 Events
530 General
535 Lost & Found
540 Volunteers
545 Legal Notices

600 MOTOR

610 Cars
615 Trucks
620 SUV's
625 Motorcycles
630 Recreational
635 Parts
640 Repairs

700 MUSIC

710 Equipment for Sale
715 Music Instruction
720 Musicians Available
725 Musicians Wanted
730 Recording Studios
735 Rentals/Services
740 Shameless Promotion

PERSONALS

Lovers Lane
Easy Street
Shot in the Dark
Messages

Please check your ad for accuracy the first time it runs. *The Austin Chronicle* is not responsible for copy errors after the first week of publication. *The Austin Chronicle*'s liability for errors is limited to the cost of the space occupied by the error, with a maximum liability of republication. Corrections must be submitted by Tuesday, 1pm.

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9am-6pm
Deadlines: Tuesday, 1pm
Phone: 512-454-5767
Email: classifieds@austinchronicle.com

110 ART/DESIGN

ART

FREE BEER.....

Well, not really, but we sure do have alot of fun. Americas fastest growing art co. seeks enthusiastic women and men for our 90 day management training program. You must enjoy a casual dress code, travel and having fun! Earn $300-$800 per week during training. Travel and health benefits available.

For an immediate interview call 926-7300 ext.3

115 BEAUTY SALON/SPA

BARBER/STYLIST Needed part-time or full-time, contract commission. Any info. Cindy 442-5300w, 925-3580c.

HAIRSTYLIST Room for rent in hair salon, Ideal for independent stylist. UT area, $520, ABP, 477-9166.

STYLIST

Salone di Essenza.

*Upscale salon in Westlake looking for experienced stylists for chair lease.

*Great location and neighborhood for your clients.

*Includes backbar, lockers, beverages provided for clients, and 10% commission on retail sales.

Get one month free rent with one year contract.

Call 512-633-9878

HAIRSTYLISTS / NAIL TECHS Lease $130/wk.

Downtown location. Lots of walk-ins. 320-5907.

120 ENTERTAINMENT CASTING

DANCERS Actors & models needed for upcoming club promotions and holiday events. Call (512) 440-7171.

125 GENERAL

ALL 30 individuals needed in campus area copyshop for various positions including copy clerk, binding, computer help, and cashier. From $7.50/hr. Call 478-0871

ALL Full-time document preperation positions available in UT area print shop. Start immediately mid Dec. late Jan. Training provided. $8 and up based on experience. Call 478-3334.

ALL High Speed Copier Operators wanted. Must have experience. 3 Shifts available. Call 472-5353

DRIVERS Drivers: Home Every Night!!! Great Pay/Benefits! Clean MVR. CDL-A. 2259 CR108 Hutto, TX . 512-846-2991

DELIVERY DRIVERS Commission wages plus some fuel allowance. Dependable vehicle & cell phone required. M-F 8-5. 459-7472.

DRIVERS

$1,000 Student Sign-On Bonus
Company-Paid CDL Training
NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED
Earn up to $37,000 Your First Year
P.A.M. TRANSPORT
Driver Training Hotline
1-877-825-8645
Apply online at www.otrdrivers.com

DRIVERS

DRIVERS: Exp'd & Inexp'd.

Local CDL-A Training!
Start a New Career!
Dedicated, Regional & OTR Fleets & Swift Transportation
800-397-2627

SWIFT

DRIVERS

Drivers/Career Training:

Avg $40K+ w/Central Refrigerated!
Professional CDL Training!
We employ and finance!
www.centraldrivingjobs.net
800-567-3867

HEALTH ATTENDANT Seeking reliable, energetic, cheerful individual. Full Time weekdays Mon-Fri, 7am-4pm. Home Health Attendant, experience preferred but will train. $12hr. Central West Austin. Call Alison for interview. No calls after 6pm please. 512-371-3036.

INSTRUCTORS

DANCE & CHEER, KARATE & SELF-DEFENSE INSTRUCTORS NEEDED

We are looking for you to teach kids in the Austin area Monday-Thursday afternoons 2:30-5:30pm. Responsible applicants only. Must have dependable transportation. Positions starting in January. Please call for more info

(210) 310-0216

LABORERS /Pallet Repair/Forklift. Great Pay! Benefits Available. 2259 CR108 Hutto, TX 78634. 512-846-2991

MYSTERY SHOPPERS - Get paid to shop! Retail/Dining establishments need undercover clients to judge quality/customer service. Earn up to $150 a day. Call 800-901-9370. (AAN CAN)

OUTDOOR YOUTH COUNSELOR Do you love the outdoors and helping troubled teens? Immediate openings at Eckerd outdoor therapeutic programs in NC, TN, GA, FL, VT, NH and RI. Year-round residential position, free room & board, competitive salary/benefits. Info and apply online: http://www.eckerdyouth.org. Or fax resume to Career Advisor/AN, 727-442-5911. EOE/DFWP (AAN CAN)

PART TIME

Extend-A-Care for Kids

Children are our future.

Be a positive role model working with elementary age kids in the afternoons. Work hours 2:15-6:30 p.m. M-F. Starting pay $9.00-$9.60/hr. EOE. Sites at 64 elementary schools. Spanish speakers needed. Apply at Extend-A-Care for Kids, 55 North IH 35, www.eackids.org, or call 472-9929 x408.

135 HOSPITALITY

ALL POSITIONS Hiring for PM Servers, Support, Host, AM Cashiers. Mama Fu's Triangle is opening soon & we need YOU!! Are you down with an energetic work environment in a great location? Do you like to make $$$? Is fun your thing? Apply at our Triangle location: 4615 N. Lamar, Ste. 307 Next to Office Max. Email:toby@mamafusaustin.com Phone:637-6771

BACK PAGE Advertise your product or service on the Back Page! Call 454-5765 today!

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE CINEMA

SUPPORT STAFF

Alamo Drafthouse Cinema is now hiring for FT Support Staff at all locations.

Ever wanted to work for a local, friendly, & respectable business? We are currently looking to add to our team of badass employees! Line Cooks, Expos, and Bussers with exp. needed. PM availability/flexible schedule a must!

Submit applications for ALL locations to The Alamo Drafthouse at the Ritz, 3012 East 6th St. M-Th after 4pm. Applicants must be 18+ to apply.

Alamo Drafthouse Cinema was named "Best Theater in Austin" 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007. EOE

ALL

Tired of the same restaurant?

Try Japanese.

Potential for big money.
Hiring waiters, busboys, and chefs.

Kobe Japanese Steakhouse. 13492 Research Blvd., Ste. 380. NW corner of 183 and Anderson Mill Rd.

KOBE japanese steakhouse

WEBSITE Check out more great ads online! **austinchronicle.com/classifieds**

ALL

GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

Open Interviews
Hilton Garden Inn
500 North IH 35
Feb 9&10th
9am-4pm

BEAT THE HEAT!
Just don't feed the bears!!!

Glacier Park, Inc. operates the 7 historic lodges in Glacier National Park. We are actively seeking the following positions for the 2008 summer season (May-Sept):

*Tour Drivers
*Waitstaff/Servers
*Line / Prep Cooks
*Retail Associates
*Night Audit
*Housekeeping
*Laundry
*Warehouse
*Front Desk
*Bartender

Internships available where applicable

Meals and housing plans available

Added incentives for management/bonus potential.

Visit our Web site at **www.gpihr.com** to apply or call **(406) 892-6719**

BARTENDER !BARTEND! Up to $300 a day. No experience necessary. Training Available. 1-800-965-6520 x207.

BARTENDERS BARTENDERS NEEDED: Looking for part/full time bartenders. Several positions available. No experience required. With hourly wages and tips make up to $300 per shift. Call (800) 806-0082 ext. 200. (AAN CAN)

CASHIER Quality Seafood needs part time cashier for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Flexibility required. Apply within. 5621 Airport Blvd.

COCKTAIL WAITRESS Ringers Sports is hiring friendly, experienced cocktail waitresses. Apply in person M-F 5-7pm. 415 Colorado.

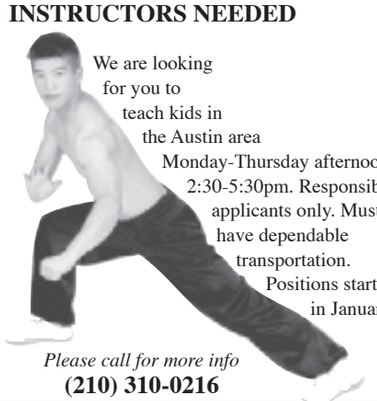
CAR PREPS NEEDED

Enterprise Rent-A-Car, America's #1 automotive leasing and rental company, is currently hiring Part Time Car Preps for locations in South and North Austin, Round Rock, Lakeway, and Cedar Park. Duties include: washing, cleaning and vacuuming cars, checking fluids, and transporting vehicles. Must be 21 years old or 18 and full time college student. Must pass background checks. Please apply online at **www.enterprise.com**. EOE

enterprise

INSTRUCTORS

DANCE & CHEER, KARATE & SELF-DEFENSE INSTRUCTORS NEEDED



We are looking for you to teach kids in the Austin area Monday-Thursday afternoons 2:30-5:30pm. Responsible applicants only. Must have dependable transportation. Positions starting in January.

Please call for more info
(210) 310-0216

Flying Saucer
Landing soon in the Triangle!
Now Hiring:
Beer Goddesses
Bartenders
Door &
Kitchen Staff
Email Ted: astngm@attglobal.net
Call
512.454.7468
www.beerknurd.com

Head Baker

The Ultimate Job
This job is almost too good to be true!

Brand new Artisan bakery opening in Houston looking for a head baker to run entire operation.

Growing company
Lots of opportunities

The right candidate will qualify for:

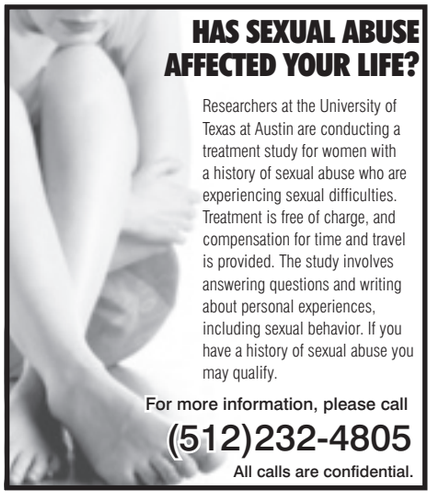
Six Figure Salary
Company Car
Equity Participation
Health and Dental Insurance
Disability Insurance
Private Club Membership

Resume to:
Legacy Restaurants
Phone: 713-934-7020
Fax: 713-934-7030

FIGHT BUSH
MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Help the Dems, HRC, & Amnesty Int'l.
Up to $16/hr w/guaranteed base,
Flexible PT& FT schedules.
Call 916-4001 for interviews.
www.Telefund.com

telefund



HAS SEXUAL ABUSE AFFECTED YOUR LIFE?

Researchers at the University of Texas at Austin are conducting a treatment study for women with a history of sexual abuse who are experiencing sexual difficulties. Treatment is free of charge, and compensation for time and travel is provided. The study involves answering questions and writing about personal experiences, including sexual behavior. If you have a history of sexual abuse you may qualify.

For more information, please call
(512)232-4805
All calls are confidential.

APPLEONE
NOW HIRING
311
CITYWIDE INFORMATION
AMBASSADORS
Call 512 458 0180
for details!
One year inbound call center experience required

Pay your Rent:
work FOR the Earth!

ORGANIZE TO PUT HUMAN NEED
OVER CORPORATE GREED
TEXAS CAMPAIGN
FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
512-326-5655 www.texasenvironment.org

ENGINEERS
JOIN THE INDUSTRY LEADER

Powder River Coal, LLC, a subsidiary of Peabody Energy – the world's largest private coal company - has a number of engineering openings for qualified candidates. Powder River Coal operates three coal mines in northeast Wyoming. We are growing and the opportunities for career-minded engineers have never been better. If you possess the qualifications and the motivation to develop or further your career with the world's best, now is the time.

In addition to offering a competitive salary and benefit package, Powder River Coal offers you the opportunity to work with some of the industry's best engineers and leaders who are facing the tough challenges of today and tomorrow with creative and innovative solutions.

Challenge yourself today.
Visit our website and see what engineering opportunities we have for you.

Interested qualified candidates please apply at
www.peabodyenergy.com

Power River Coal, LLC, is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

POWDER RIVER COAL

ADVERTISING SALES

The *Austin Chronicle* is looking for a Classified Advertising Account Representative to join our sales team.

The ideal candidate must be a self-starter with the ability to cold call. Online sales experience a plus. Candidates must have strong customer service and organizational skills. Basic computer and typing skills required. In return you will be rewarded with a fast and fun work environment, paid vacation and holidays.

The Chronicle offers health insurance and a 401(k) program. First year earning potential between $25K- $30K.

Please fax résumé to
512-458-6910
or email:
cassidy@austinchronicle.com.
No phone calls please.

CHRONICLE **austinchronicle.com**

Live The Dream!

Earn up to
$40,000 / 1st Yr

$1,000 Sign-On Bonus

Call Today
1-877-230-1444

No Experience Needed!

3 Week Paid CDL Training

P.A.M.
TRANSPORT

Apply Online 24/7
www.Drive4PAM.com/ASCH

CONTINUED

135 HOSPITALITY

DANCERS & WAITRESSES

The Landing Strip

MAKE BIG $$$

FT/PT, flex. sched., no exp. nec., 745 Bastrop Hwy, one mile from the airport.

385-2878.

DELIVERY DRIVERS

FOOD DELIVERY DRIVERS

Hiring food delivery drivers, downtown Austin, Lunch & Evening Shifts, Mon-Fri,

No weekends! Earn up to $10-$15/hr at Rocket's!

Apply at: Rocket's

118 W. 5th St.

ENTERTAINERS

JOY

MAKE LOTS OF MONEY!

and have lots of fun as an **Entertainer or Waitress** at Joy of Austin Men's Club. No experience necessary. Will train. Apply in person, Exit 250 IH35. 218-8012.

FISH PROCESSOR Quality Seafood is seeking a full time fish processor. Flexible shifts Monday through Saturday. Apply in person. 5621 Airport Blvd.

WEBSITE Check out more great ads online! **austinchronicle.com/classifieds**

PIZZA DELIVERY DRIVERS/ COOK PIZZA CLASSICS: Now Hiring Delivery Drivers, and couponers. Up to $15/hr. Also hiring cook. Please apply in person at 604 W. 29th after 4PM.

WAITSTAFF Full or PT - experienced, dependable. Dirty Martin's Hamburgers. Apply in person, M-F, 3-5. 2808 Guadalupe St.

145 OFFICE/CLERICAL

AP ACCOUNTING CLERK (Austin, TX) Ensure timely & accurate payment of all invoices. Audit & pay expense reimbursements. 2 yrs exp in above or as a Credit & Collection Supervisor or Property Accountant req'd. 40 hpw. Mail resume to Alethes, LLC, Attn: HR, 8601 Rd 2222 Bldg 1, Ste 150, Austin, TX 78730.

GOVERNMENT JOBS $12-$48/Hr. Full Benefits/Paid Training. Work available in areas like Homeland Security, Law Enforcement, Wildlife & More! 1-800-320-9353 x2001. (AAN CAN)

FREE ADS

Got a car you need to sell?

Looking for a roommate?

Want to unload that old refrigerator?

Got a great idea for a band, but missing some musicians?

All you need to do is go online to **www.austinchronicle.com/classifieds** and post your ad for FREE.

Make it stand out with pictures! Highlight it by making it a featured ad! You can even run it in print! Ads run online for 30 days, and are posted immediately. After all, immediate gratification takes too long!

150 NON-PROFIT

ACTIVISM

Holiday Jobs for Social Justice!!

TEXAS CAMPAIGN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Why waste your time at a boring, minimum wage, mall job when you can affect real changes in peoples' lives? Join TX's leading citizens group winning victories for political, social, and enviro. justice!

M-F, 2-10 PM (PT avail.), $375/wk + Bonuses, Benefits, Pd. Train., Leadership/ Travel, & a Sweet Dress Code!!

CALL 512.326.5655 or Apply online at texasenvironment.org

ACTIVISM

Fight Bush, Make a Difference. Help the Dems, HRC, Amnesty Int'l, PFAW, and others! Up to $16/hr w/ guaranteed base, Flexible PT & FT schedules.

Call 916-4001 for interviews www.Telefund.com

ACTIVISM

JOBS WITH ENVIRONMENT TEXAS

Make a Difference Save the State Parks

$1200-$2200/Month

FT/PT/ Career Ops + Benefits

Call Carrie

512-479-9804

jobsthatmatter.org

EMPLOYMENT

Pink-slipped?
Get back on your feet with the Austin Chronicle's Employment Section.

The Austin Chronicle classifieds will be having

EARLY DEADLINES

for the holiday issues.

Deadlines for the **DEC. 28TH** publication will be

FRIDAY, DEC. 21ST

at 12 noon.

Deadlines for the **JAN. 4TH** publication will be

FRIDAY, DEC. 28TH

at 12 noon.

SALONE DI ESSENZA

Upscale salon in Westlake looking for experienced stylists for chair lease

Great location and neighborhood for your clients

Includes backbar, lockers, beverages provided for clients, and 10% commission on retail sales

GET ONE MONTH FREE RENT WITH ONE YEAR CONTRACT

CALL 512-633-9878

Start Your Career in the Entertainment Industry Today!

From the technical and creative know-how to hands-on training by industry professionals, our worldclass multi-studio Recording and Digital Film School teaches you all the skills you need to succeed in the Entertainment Industry.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO TOUR OUR STUDIOS

CALL 512-447-2002

CLASSES START JANUARY 7, 2008

WWW.MEDIATECHINSTITUTE.COM

Digital Film & Video Arts Program

Recording Arts Program

MediaTech Institute

DALLAS • AUSTIN • HOUSTON

WWW.MEDIATECHINSTITUTE.COM

Financial aid available to those who qualify

Job placement assistance after graduation • Accredited School, ACCSCT

AT&T One Day Hiring Event!

at&t

We're looking for men and women to become **Premises Technicians** who will be responsible for the installation and customer care of the new U-verse interated digital TV, high speed Internet and voice services.

Don't miss this ONE DAY ONLY hiring event on

Saturday, Jan. 5th at 9am or 1pm only!

Located at

Austin Airport Marriott South

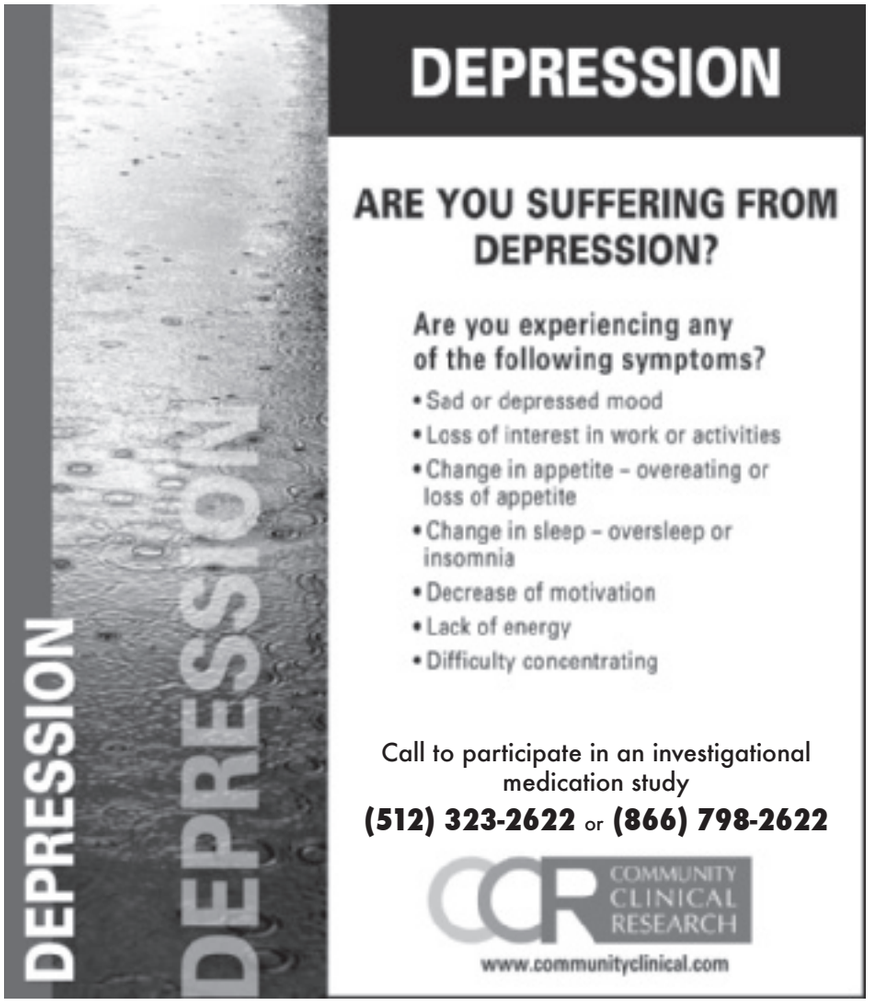
4415 South IH-35

Austin TX, 78744

If unable to attend, apply Online at ***www.att.jobs***. All job seekers should bring valid picture identification, be prepared for interviewing and employment testing and can expect to be present up to 3 hours. Limited Seating available.

AT&T is an equal opportunity employer committed to a diverse workforce.

© 2007 AT&T Intellectual Property. All rights reserved.



155 PROFESSIONAL

ADVERTISING SALES

THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE is looking for a Classified Advertising Account Representative to join our sales team.

The ideal candidate must be a self-starter with the ability to cold call. Online Sales experience a plus.

Candidates must have strong customer service and organizational skills.

Basic computer and typing skills required. In return, you will be rewarded with a fast and fun work environment, paid vacation and holidays.

The Chronicle offers health insurance and a 401(k) program. First year earning potential between $25K-$30K.

Please fax resume to: 512-458-6910 or email cassidy@austinchronicle.com.

No phone calls please.

EOE

CHRONICLE

MTS DESIGN ENGINEER
Advanced Micro Devices is recruiting for an MTS Design Engineer in Austin, TX.

Submit resumes referencing job title and code T28618 to

AMD, M/S 672, 5204 E. Ben White Blvd., Austin, TX 78741. AMD is an EOE.

160 RESEARCH STUDY

DEPRESSION

ARE YOU SUFFERING FROM DEPRESSION?

Are you experiencing any of the following symptoms?

• Sad or depressed mood

• Loss of interest in work or activities

• Change in appetite - overeating or loss of appetite

• Change in sleep - oversleep or insomnia

• Decrease of motivation

• Lack of energy

• Difficulty concentrating

Call to participate in an investigational medication study.

512-323-2622

or 866-798-2622

www.communityclinical.com

COMMUNITY CLINICAL RESEARCH

SEX ABUSE

HAS SEXUAL ABUSE AFFECTED YOUR LIFE?

Researchers at the University of Texas at Austin are conducting a treatment study for women with a history of sexual abuse who are experiencing sexual difficulties. Treatment is free of charge, and compensation for time and travel is provided. The study involves answering questions and writing about personal experiences, including sexual behavior. If you have a history of sexual abuse and it has affected your sexuality you may qualify.

For more info, please call

(512) 232-4805

All calls are confidential.

165 RETAIL

HEB Now Hiring at your Escarpment Village HEB! Located on the corner of Slaughter and Escarpment in Circle C Ranch. Apply within any time, or come to one our Job Fairs for an on-the-spot interview. Job Fairs held every other Tuesday (Starting Dec 11th) and every other Saturday (Starting Dec 8th). 5800 W Slaughter Ln Austin Tx 78749 512-301-9770

170 SALES MARKETING

SALES

dataCOMM RESOURCE

Opportunity for outgoing, high-energy people who love to talk and who also love their technology stuff and home entertainment. Sales of AT&T DSL high-speed internet, U-Verse internet / TV, AT&T Homezone, DISH Network satellite TV and home telephone services. Your choice of hourly plus bonus -or- straight commission. No salary cap. Direct retail sales plus staff special events sponsored by AT&T. Datacomm Resource, 512-328-3400

175 SCHOOL TRAINING

TABC Absolutely the easiest way to get a T.A.B.C. card! WWW.TABCCERT.com

WRITERS Wanted: The Academy for Alternative Journalism, established by papers like this one

to promote diversity in the alternative press, seeks talented journalists

and students (college seniors and up) for a paid summer writing program at

Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism. The eight-week

program (June 22 - August 17, 2008) aims to recruit talented candidates from

diverse backgrounds and train them in alt-weekly style feature writing. Ten

participants will be chosen and paid $3,000 plus housing and travel

allowances. For information and an application visit http://aaj.aan.org. You

may also email us at altacademy@northwestern.edu. Applications must be

postmarked by February 8, 2008. Northwestern University is an equal

opportunity educator and employer. (AAN CAN)

FREE ADS Looking to hire a bartender? Have an apartment you need to rent? Want to advertise your handyman skills? All you need to do is go online to **www.austinchronicle.com/classifieds** and post your ad for FREE. Make it stand out with pictures! Highlight it by making it a featured ad! You can even run it in print! Ads run online for 30 days, and are posted immediately. After all, immediate gratification takes too long!

HOUSING

215 APT/CONDO TOWNHOME

ALL http://AustinCool.com "Your source for cool & unique Austin rentals." 693-7231.

ALL www.austindowntownliving.com Unique apartments, lofts and townhomes throughout central and downtown Austin for lease and for sale! Call Team Real Estate for show! (512)416-8333.

CENTRAL

PRICE REDUCTION!

Enjoy apartment living in a residential neighborhood. Close to eateries, grocery stores, sports/health centers. Walk/Bike/bus to campus.

• 1717 W. 35th, 2/2... $985

(1,000sqft, water/garbage paid, walk-in closets, large linen closets, dishwasher, ceiling fans, CACH, great roomate floorplan)

OWNER MANAGED.

WAUGH PROP., INC

(512) 451-0988

CENTRAL

78704

HARDWOOD STYLE

2/2 BEDROOM SPECIAL $679

NO APP FEE!

Apartment Experts

416-8100 Broker

ApartmentExperts.com

CENTRAL

STUDIO DOWNTOWN

www.austindowntownliving.com Studio, Downtown Congress, L-shaped with private deck. Hidden behind shops & restaurants. No need for a car. Pet-friendly. $625mo. Call Team Real Estate for show! (512)416-8333

TEAM REAL ESTATE 512-416-8333

CENTRAL **SUPER MODERN ART DECO. 5 min from DT. Call for pics and Floorplans! Agent 512.241.1111 email lease@aptsaus.com

CENTRAL lowest prices $475 + and Specials. Apt Experts 416-8100 Broker.

CENTRAL 693-7231 http://AustinCool.com Downtown elegance, city-views, hardwoods. Rooftop deck, W/D.

CENTRAL http://AustinCool.com 693-7231 Newly renovated, tile floor, W/D, Zen garden, 2bdrm, $875.

CENTRAL http://AustinCool.com 693-7231 Brand new, dwtwn view, free rent! Granite/marble/wood, WD

CENTRAL

Like new w/ wood floors! Close to Downtown/UT! 2-1. 954 SF, $1000. Stainless Steel Appliances with Glass Kitchen Cabinets. Mosaic Glass Tile Bathrooms. Lots of Storage. Decorative Landscaping. Sparkling Pool. Call Chris Bee / Agent of Avignon Realty: 512-293-7737

CENTRAL Downtown/Congress restaurant/shopping district, remodeled units. Studio...$625. large 2/2....$895. 3/2... $1,095. Walk to everything. www.austindowntownliving.com Call Team Real Estate (512) 416-8333.

CENTRAL http://AustinCool.com Cool apartments, lofts & condos for rent and sale. 693-7231.

CENTRAL near Oltorf cheap deposit, No app fee special, water paid, Fitness, WD Conn, Large 1 BR $570 Apt Experts 416-8100 Broker.

CENTRAL ECLECTIC downtown loft. Big dogs ok, A+, 231-1400 Agent

CENTRAL

78704

•EFF - $445 - Subtract 3% for student - 1/2 OFF 1st month

•1Br - $499 - private pond & tanning bed

•1Br - $545 - Townlake access, free cable, buses. NO KIDDING!!

•2br - $639 - W/D Conn, Tennis Cts, 2 pools, UT Bus Rts

•3br - $895 - Free Cable, Skate Park, 1600 sqft.

•4br - $895 - Made for kids, YMCA, Afterschool care

Specializing in difficult situations, immediate move-ins, luxury, downtown & cheap rent. You name it, I will find it with no problem mon!

Available Weekends too...so call now, mon.

512-317-1703

ronjontheapartmentmon@hotmail.com

Fast, Friendly, & FREE!

CENTRAL SUPER SWANKY LUXURY LIVING! Concrete Floors, MODERN ART DECO, LOFTS/FLATS, W/D INC., Call 512.241.1111 Agent.

CENTRAL http://www.austindowntownliving.com Near Zilker Park, 50ft to Greenbelt entrance! 1/1 $775. Rare unit! 2BDRM flat $1,025. Completely remodeled. Ready for move-in! Call Team Real Estate for show! (512)416-8333.

CENTRAL

CAMPUS

• 1-1 $449

• 2-2 $609, 1BR $449, UT Bus

SOUTH

• Studio $460 Free Cable, • 2 Bedroom Townhome $725. Bad Credit? Broken Leases? Felonies? Big Dogs? OK!

Call Ray Day at the Apartment People (512) 496-3725

CENTRAL Arboretum! Granite, hardwoods, yards! Luxury 360 views! Call today! Agent 512.241.1111 lease@aptsaus.com

CENTRAL

78704

TRAVIS HEIGHTS CREEKSIDE

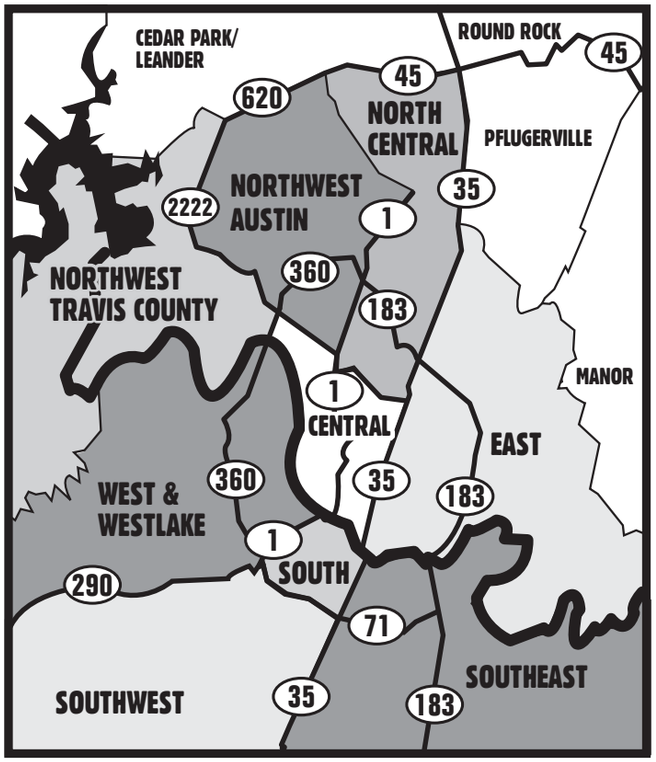
1-1 $635

2-2 $795

2-1.5 Townhomes $850

ApartmentExperts.com

416-8100 Broker



CENTRAL

78701

404 Rio Grande St
201 Lavaca St
300 West Ave
Austin's Nicest
NEWEST DOWNTOWN
PROPERTIES $1390+
apartmentexperts.com
416-8100 Broker

CENTRAL $199 Total Move In. $299 Total Move In on 2's. $399 Total Move In on 3's. Free Cable. Apt. Experts. Broker. 416-8100

CENTRAL www.austindowntownliving.com Studio, Downtown Congress, L-shaped with private deck. Hidden behind shops & restaurants. No need for a car. Pet-friendly. $625mo. Call Team Real Estate for show! (512)416-8333.

CENTRAL http://AustinCool.com 693-7231 Wood & ceramic tile floors, walk downtown, fenced yard, $775

CENTRAL TWO BLOCKS FROM CAMPUS, 2020 Nueces. 1/1 +Loft, Large balcony, Walk-in closet. Paid Water. Covered Parking. $825 Avail. Jan. 451-0414.

CENTRAL

78741

WD CONNS
UT SHUTTLE
Hidden Gem, Fitness, Gated
1 BR $520
2 BR $670
Apartmentexperts.com
416-8100 Broker

CENTRAL

Ron Jon the Apartment Mon! Free Apt. Locating!

Call 512-317-1703 ronjontheapartmentmon@hotmail.com

CENTRAL

SHORT TERM LEASES AVAILABLE

- NOW! 2/2, Central... $985
- DEC! Eff, Hyde Park... $575
- JAN! Effs, Hyde Park/West Campus $475-$575

All Units, Free Parking! OWNER MANAGED. WAUGH PROP., INC

(512) 451-0988

CENTRAL

Awesome North Loop Condo with stackable Washer/Dryer, Built-in Microwave, New Appliances, Fireplace, Ceiling Fans, Screened-in Balcony overlooking Sparking Pools.

Wood floors! Tennis Courts, Covered Parking on property. Walk to nearby Eateries, Boutiques, Coffee Shops. 1-1, 738 SF, $850.

Call Chris Bee 512-293-7737. Avignon Realty

CENTRAL http://AustinCool.com 693-7231 Lakeview, SoCo shops, kayak storage, walk dwntown, $675.

CENTRAL http://AustinCool.com 693-7231 Greenbelt trail at door, W/D incl, walk to shops/cafes-cool 78704 $725.

CENTRAL http://AustinCool.com 693-7231 SoCo 3BD, walk downtown, near shops, cafes, music, $1,095.

CENTRAL http://AustinCool.com 693-7231 Walk downtown, pool on lake, European kitchen, 2/2, $895.

CENTRAL/SOUTH near Woodward. 2-1.5 $650, Free Cable, UT/Metro Bus Service. Apartment Experts 416-8100, Broker.

CENTRAL/SOUTH Gas Cooking, Huge square footage, 1/1 $589. Water, waste water, trash & gas PAID. Apt Experts 512-416-8100, Broker.

EAST Efficiency garage apartment, 500sqft. Newly constructed! CACH, $750mo ABP. Call (512) 443-7400.

EAST http://AustinCool.com 693-7231 Cool area w/retail, cityviews, stained concrete, stainless, modern loft.

NORTH ARBORETUM - URBAN LIFESTYLE - Upscale new construction. Granite counters, wood like flooring, unique style. Restaurants & shops at your doorstep. A+, 231-1400 Agent

NORTH 1 MONTH FREE! Washer/Dryer included! $499+ call today! 512.241.1111 or email lease@aptsaus.com

NORTH ARBORETUM - ROOMATE FLOORPLAN - 2 bdrm, garden tub, huge closets, over 1,000 square feet. Tree lined nature trail. $1,100. A+, 231-1400, Agent

NORTH $185 MOVE IN!W/D INCL.$540, 2br $775, Agent 512.241.1111 email lease@aptsaus.com

NORTH ** DREAM BIG! Studio $410, 2BR TH $765, 3BR $815. Agent 512.241.1111 lease@aptsaus.com

NORTH Faux hardwoods! New construction, modern appliances/fixtures. Call today! Agent 512.241.1111 email lease@aptsaus.com

NORTH **GI-NORMOUS! 2 br/2 story TH! $745, 1BR $525. Agent 512.241.1111 email lease@aptsaus.com

NORTH OLDIE BUT GOODIE, An 80's favorite!! Gated, 2 pools, gym, indoor racquetball, sport court, 1 bdrm $600, 2 bdrm $780 A+, 231-1400, Agent

NORTH Zilker townhomes w/ garages! 1, 2, 3s, call for pricing! Agent 512.241.1111 lease@aptsaus.com

NORTH UPSCALE QUALITY AT BARGAIN PRICES - Movie theater, gym, pool, large patios. 1 bdrm $650, 2 bdrm $780, 3 bdrm $1,005. A+, 231-1400, Agent

NORTH AUSTIN:

- Studio. $415. Townhome 2-2 $670 month W/D conns. Fireplace. Vaulted Ceiling.

NORTHWEST

- 1-1 $509
- Huge 2-2, $729

Bad Credit? Broken Leases? Felonies? Big Dogs? OK!

"PRE-LEASE TODAY"
Call Ray Day at the Apartment People (512) 496-3725

NORTH CENTRAL FREE CABLE, cozy courtyard community with pool!! Near Mopac and Shoal Creek. 1 bdrm $599, 2 bdrm $700. A+, 231-1400, Agentt

NORTH CENTRAL SCORED CONCRETE FLOORS - Close in 2 bdrm $776. W/D connections, large patio, 2 pools. A+, 231-1400 Agent

NORTH CENTRAL BACK TO BASICS - ROOMY STUDIO, huge closet. $490. Stove, refrig, dishwasher, disposal, central air/heat. A+, 231-1400 Agent.

NORTH CENTRAL VALUE PRICED, junior 1 bdrm $515. Two months free with good credit. Convenient to downtown, easy acces to major roadways. A+, 231-1400, Agent

NORTHWEST EASY CREDIT, low upfront costs. Quick move in, spacious 1 bdrm $569, 2 bdrm $749. A+, 231-1400 Agent

NORTHWEST PAID CABLE, 2 bdrm CONDO, $725. New appliances, washer & dryer included. Near Lakeline Mall, A+, 231-1400, Agent

NORTHWEST CLOSE IN TOWNHOME, 2222/Mopac. Over 1200 square feet with upgrades. Stainless steel appliances, $1,325. A+, 231-1400, Agent 231-1400 Agent

NORTHWEST LOOP 360 - ONE OF A KIND Not cookie cutter!! Small community by the bridge. Attached garages, distinctive floorplans, fireplaces. 1 bdrm $810, 2 bdrm $1,100. A+, 231-1400, Agent

NORTHWEST LOOP 360 - TOP NOTCH QUALITY. Ask about yards, views, hardwoods. Have it all!!! From $905. A+, 231-1400, Agent

NORTHWEST FOURPLEX - 2 BDRM/2BATH, $735. Roommate floorplan. Gas cooking, w/d connections. Large pets ok. A+, 231-1400, Agent

SOUTH http://AustinCool.com 693-7231 Pool on lake, walk downtown, private balcony, modern kitchen, $570

SOUTH http://AustinCool.com 693-7231 Total urban living experience. Stained concrete flrs, art deco, W/D, 2/2 $759.

SOUTH http://AustinCool.com 693-7231 Low deposit! Cute & clean, W/D conn, balcony, dry bar, fitness center $520.

SOUTH SOCO LIVING! Walk to 1st Thursday! $1000+ Agent 512.241.1111 email lease@aptsaus.com

SOUTH Near SE shuttle, resort style pool + amenities. W/D, free cable + HBO. $340+, Apartment Experts 416-8100 Broker.

SOUTH Spacious, Pool, FREE CABLE. EFF $495, 1BD $595, 2BD $695. 538-2201 www.southlandapts.com

SOUTH CENTRAL

78704
BICYCLE FRIENDLY

Vintage Travis Heights neighborhood. Easy access to South Congress.

1/1... $625
2/1 w/private deck... $725
3BDRM DPLX w/yard...$1,300
Units Rarely Available!

TEAM REAL ESTATE
(512) 416-8333
www.austindowntownliving.com

TEAM REAL ESTATE 512-416-8333

SOUTH http://AustinCool.com 693-7231 Pool on lake, walk downtown, private balcony, modern kitchen, $570

SOUTH http://AustinCool.com 693-7231 Total urban living experience. Stained concrete flrs, art deco, W/D, 2/2 $759.

SOUTH http://AustinCool.com 693-7231 Low deposit! Cute & clean, W/D conn, balcony, dry bar, fitness center $520.

SOUTH SOCO LIVING! Walk to 1st Thursday! $1000+ Agent 512.241.1111 email lease@aptsaus.com

SOUTH Near SE shuttle, resort style pool + amenities. W/D, free cable + HBO. $340+, Apartment Experts 416-8100 Broker.

SOUTH Spacious, Pool, FREE CABLE. EFF $495, 1BD $595, 2BD $695. 538-2201 www.southlandapts.com

The Taylor Company, Inc.
Residential Leasing, Management & Sales

HELPING YOU FIND THE PERFECT HOME

CAMERON/BERKMAN 3-2 home on Ridgemont. 2 car garage, fenced yard, ceramic tile floors. Full size w/d conn. Section 8 acceptable. Avail. now. $1150.

DELWOOD 3-2 home on Northridge. 2 car garage. Fenced yard. Formal living w/bonus room upstairs. Sec 8 acceptable. Available now. $1250

GEORGETOWN 3-2 duplex on Tamara Dr. Fenced yard. All appliances. Avail. mid-December. $875

CLARKSVILLE 1-1.5 condo on 9th & Winflo. Stacked washer/dryer. Fireplace. Updated kitchen. Avail. mid-December. $1200

CALL ABOUT THESE AND OTHER GREAT LOCATIONS
512-973-9000

Same Day Ray

Call Ray Day 496-3725 with The Apartment People

Call Today. **Look** Today. **Lease** Today.

FREE SERVICE

SECTION 8? BROKEN LEASES? BIG DOGS & DUCKS? OLD FELONIES OK!

CAMPUS: 1-1 $449, 2BDRM $609, UT Bus Route 1B $420 1B LOFTS $499 UT Bus Route

NORTH: Studio $415, 2B $670.

NORTHWEST: 1-1 $509 Huge 2-2, $729. 3BD $900. 2-2 Townhome $710 w/d conn, fireplace, vaulted ceilings, and $200 off 1st month

SOUTHWEST: 1B $470, 2B $619. 3B w/yard $1049

SOUTH: Studio $460, free cable. 2 Bedroom Townhome $725, "Large Patio" 1-1 $459. Great Location. Greenbelt: 2B $610

FREE HOME SEARCH

Call Chris Bee
512-293-7737
Serving the Austin Metro since 2000

Sales: - New Homes - Resale Homes
Leasing: - Apartments - Duplexes - Condos - Houses

WWW.APARTMENTSFIRST.COM

AVIGNON

WWW.AVIGNONREALTY.COM

RonJon the Apt Mon

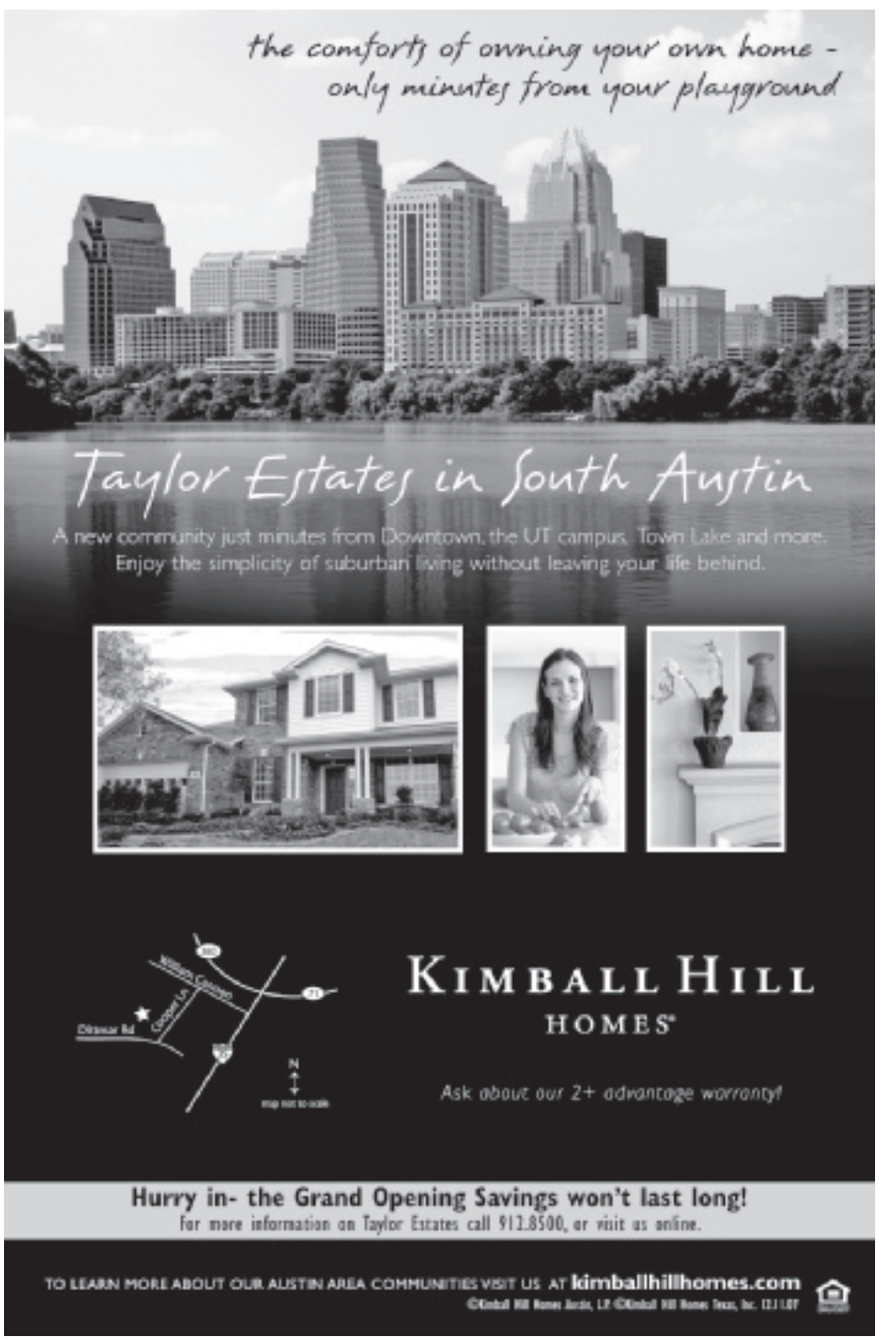
FREE APT LOCATING
Keeping Austin weirder one day at a time

- **EFF** - $440-500 - Nice & Cozy
- **1Br** - $499 - Private lake, tanning bed, pools & hot tub
- **1Br** - $510 - W/D Conns., Pool, Fitness center TREES
- **1br** - $545 - $100 OFF, gate access, cable, HUGE!!!
- **2br** - $619 - W/D Conns, 2 pools, Hot tubs, tennis cts
- **2br** - $650 Free Cable, 2 pools, skate park
- **2br loft** - $799 W/D Conns., Incredible, TREES GALORE
- **3br** - $895 1600 sqft, Free Cable, 2 pools, Skate Park

Simply too many to list
SPECIALIZING IN IMMEDIATE MOVE-INS, CHEAP RENT & DIFFICULT SITUATIONS. NO CREDIT, 1ST TIME RENTERS, CO-SIGNERS, VERY BAD CREDIT IS NO PROBLEM, MON!! AVAILABLE WEEKENDS TOO ... SO CALL NOW MON.

512/293-7443
ronjontheapartmentmon@hotmail.com.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



CONTINUED

215 APT/CONDO TOWNHOME

SOUTH http://AustinCool.com 693-7231 HUGE TOWN LAKE 2/2 Large bedrooms and closets, easy downtown access, $665.

SOUTH Hardwoods, black on black/stainless steel appliances! Great southwest location! 1/1 $764, 2BR $1000. Agent 512.241.1111 email lease@aptsaus.com

SOUTH CENTRAL

OLTORF CLOSE TO DOWNTOWN

W/D connections, private deck, water paid.

1BDRM... $530

2BDRM... $670

Call Team Real Estate for show!

(512)416-8333

www.austindowntownliving.com

TEAM REAL ESTATE 512-416-8333

SOUTH CENTRAL Travis Heights/Central South Austin. SoCo Cool & move in before Christmas! 1 bedroom, 1 bath across from greenbelt in Travis Heights. 1416 Kenwood Ave for $575, Call Cindy Spears at 825-4663. Lanier Realty.

SOUTHWEST http://Austin-Cool.com 693-7231 Upscale 2BDRM, W/D, Sunset Valley area, $863, 3BDR $1,006.

WEST **360 HIKE AND BIKE! 1/1 $585, 2BR$675 Agent Call 512.241.1111 email lease@aptsaus.com

WEST **HIKE/BIKE TO ZILKER** 1s and 2s available. W/D connections! Agent 512.241.1111 email lease@aptsaus.com

FREE ADS

Got a car you need to sell?

Looking for a roommate?

Want to unload that old refrigerator?

Got a great idea for a band, but missing some musicians?

All you need to do is go online to **www.austinchronicle.com/classifieds** and post your ad for FREE. Make it stand out with pictures! Highlight it by making it a featured ad! You can even run it in print! Ads run online for 30 days, and are posted immediately. After all, immediate gratification takes too long!

220 DUPLEX/HOUSES

CENTRAL DELWOOD4-2 home on Northridge. 2 car garage. Fenced yard. Formal living w/bonus room upstairs. Sec 8 acceptable. Available now. $1250.00. The Taylor Company. 973-9000.

CENTRAL 2-1 nice 4-plx 2013 Cullen Ave, remodeled, clean HVAC,W&D pets neg.$775/mo Linda Bueltel (ag.) 423-6843

CENTRAL CAMERON/ BERKMAN 3-2 home on Ridgemont. 2 car garage, fenced yard, ceramic tile floors. Full size w/d conn. Avail. now. Section 8 acceptable. $1150. The Taylor Company. 973-9000

CENTRAL CLARKSVILLE 1-1.5 condo on 9th & Winflo. Stacked washer/dryer. Fireplace. Updated kitchen. Avail. Mid-December. $1200.00. The Taylor Company 973-9000.

CENTRAL 2-1 in nice 4-plx. 2013 Cullen Ave, remodeled clean, HVAC,W&D,pets neg. $775/mo Linda(ag.)423-6843

EAST /CENTRAL large 2-1 in dplx/no common walls 1213 EM Franklin HVAC $700/mo pets neg. Linda (ag.) 423-6843

EAST Convenient-Mueller/I-35/290! Very nice updated 3 or 4 /2 on Walnut Creek. Privacy fence, 6902 Geneva $1195 Ownr/Agt 933-1311

GEORGETOWN 3-2 duplex on Tamara Dr. Fenced yard. All appliances. Avail. Mid-December. $875.00. The Taylor Company 973-9000.

SOUTH CENTRAL Nice large 3/2, FP, Priv. Fenced yd, garage, Near Downtn/ut shuttle/ bus 1801 A Briar Hill $1050 AGT 933-1311

SOUTH CENTRAL Located right off S. 1, $1850, 4 beds, 2 baths. Private Back House. Great Backyard! For more information call (512) 322-0512.

UT CAMPUS

$1495, 3 bedroom, 2baths, wood floors, huge windows, walk to campus, 2 blocks from shuttle. For more information call (512) 322-0512

230 COMMERCIAL

CENTRAL, OTHER Downtown. Ofc/Studio Historic Bldg. on E.6th St. 3250 sq. ft. $16 per sq ft a year 2nd floor nnn 263-2534

WEST Shared Office Space. Well established travel firm seeks to sublet part of 1633 sq/ft, 4 offices and conference room. Fully furnished. Office space and reception area. 360/Lost Creek. Call Joe (512)517-7557

235 ROOMMATES

CENTRAL housemate needed for nice old timey home with lots of character, large yard, private, peaceful, responsible yet fun! just south of downtown. 444-5703

CENTRAL Need a ROOMMATE Fast? Austin's #1 ROOMMATE SERVICE has 1000's of listings. WWW.ROOMMATEEXPRESS .COM. 800-487-8050

Home Ownership Made Easy

Buy Any Home In The Austin Area WITHOUT Bank Qualifying...

The Texas Homebuyer Assistance Program (TxHAP) allows you to buy a home without bank qualifying. You pick any home for sale and we will finance it for you at a fixed, current market interest rate. Little or no money down. 98% approval rate. Move in within 21 days. **NOTE: If you are currently renting an apartment, we will PAY OFF your remaining lease for you... so you can move into your new home.** Funds for this program are limited and are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. For FREE info, call: **(512) 535-0292, ext 24** (24 hr. rec. msg.) Or visit: **www.TexHap.org**

CAMPUS, CENTRAL AND HYDE PARK

SHORT TERM LEASES AVAILABLE!

NOW 2/2, Central $985

DEC. EFF, Hyde Park..... $575

JAN. EFFS, Hyde Park & W. Campus ..... $475-$575

ALL UNITS - FREE PARKING!

WAUGH PROPERTIES, INC. 451-0988

TRADE UP

POST YOUR FREE AD NOW

CHRONICLE austinchronicle.com/tradeup

240 REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CENTRAL Several lg. bedrooms avail., free laundry, cable, and wireless high-speed internet. Flexible lease starts @ $350, incl. util. Outdoor patio firepit. No pets. kirk@kirkmcdow.com

METRO ALL AREAS - ROOMMATES.COM. Browse hundreds of online listings with photos and maps. Find your roommate with a click of the mouse! Visit: www.Roommates.com. (AAN CAN)

SOUTH Large room in lovely home in South Austin, just off Ben White Blvd and Manchaca, 5 min. from Central Market, Randall's and Westgate, 15 minutes from St. Eds U. Remodeled, all modern appliances, sunny and bright. Large deck in back overlooks greenspace. Includes high speed internet access, and ABP. Available January 5th. References required. $475/mo. For more info please call 512-239-9551.

REAL ESTATE You can place your Home for Sale ad in The Austin Chronicle's Home Gallery section for only $45/week. Call 512-454-5765 to place your ad today!

ALL http://AustinCool.com/ sales Search 11,000 Austin sales listings. Free buyer rep. 693-7231.

ALL AUSTIN Area Homes. FREE search data base at www.quigleyteam.com. Real Estate by the Golden Rule!

CENTRAL
MUST SELL
Fixer Uppers
Bank Foreclosures
Company Owned Properties
Distress Sales
FREE LIST WITH PICTURES
www.AustinBankDistress HomeSales.com

CENTRAL Downtown loft experts, starting at $123K, tile, stainless 693-7231. All downtown listings at: www.AustinCool.com/sales

CENTRAL
Fixer Uppers
These Homes Need Work!
Visit:
www.AustinAreaFixUps.com

CENTRAL
FREE
HOME SEARCH
www.austindowntownliving.com Experienced local REALTORS living and working in Central Austin. Downtown Congress condos from the low $100's+ Call Team Real Estate for a free MLS search! (512) 416-8333

TEAM REAL ESTATE 512-416-8333

CENTRAL $900 a month you can own a duplex near 78704 or Zilker, why pay a landlord rent? www.texasequityalliance.com 512-467-2900

CENTRAL
Do You Belong East?
ESTE CONDOS
Now Selling
6th Street Spaces at
Este Condominiums!
1 & 2 bedroom residences are available from the $180s.
Call Andrew Shaw (786-6356) for more info or for an appt. in the marketing center located at 1601 E. 5th St. in the Saltillo Lofts.

CENTRAL $900 a month you can own a duplex near Hyde Park or Crestview, why pay a landlord rent? www.texasequityalliance.com 512-467-2900

WEBSITE Looking for something more? Check out **austinchronicle.com/classifieds** for even more great ads online.

EAST
GREENVIEW AT MUELLER
CONDO TOWNHOMES WITH GREENBELT AND CREEK VIEWS
- From the $240k's
- Concrete/Wood Floors
- Stainless Appliances
- 9ft & 10ft Ceilings
- Tankless Water Heaters
- Dual Zoned A/C

NEXT TWO CONTRACTS... MORTGAGE PAID 6 MONTHS BY SELLER!
www.greenviewaustin.com
(512) 762-3144

LEASING I CAN HELP. Free Buyer/Tenant rep. Also Help Buy or Sell. Search PeggySueSellsTexas.com QT Realty 577-5642

NORTH Beautifully maintained townhome in NW Austin off McNeil. 2 story 2/1.5 w/carport, full sized W/D, FP. All tile floors down, new carpet up. Fresh, clean, bright. A real home to live in for years for only $115,700! CondoJoe@re-al.com for flyer or 203-4100

BACK PAGE Advertise your product or service on the Back Page! Call 454-5765.

NORTH Does your landlord treat you like a bitch? Don't let your apartment stand in your way of owning a brand spanking new castle! I can unlock your lease and have you saying house party! Start dialing 300-7007.

WEBSITE
Do you think you could win a Roommate Horror Story contest? Really?
Then we think you should get a new roommate....
Check out our roommate section online at **austinchronicle.com/classifieds.**

SOUTH Sweet 2/1 condo 4 miles to downtown. Upstairs 850SF w/panoramic view to horizon. A/C replaced. HOA dues include cable, hot water, water, insurance, maintenance, etc. Reduced $10,000! $79,700. CondoJoe@re-al.com for flyer or 203-4100

SOUTH Cheapest good deal out there! Only $45,700 for this 1 bed condo in Woodlands II on Burleson (4 miles to downtown). Redone dark wood laminates, new white appliances, new A/C. Payments will be under $500 total!!! CondoJoe@re-al.com for flyer or 203-4100

CENTRAL AUSTIN - Windsor Condos - 1210 Windsor Road - Incredible location! Walking distance to Clarksville shops and Whole Foods -Established neighborhood- New Appl.,Granite Counters, Wood/Tile floors, Slate floors in kitchen, New fxtures,Txture & Paint.. modern, vessel sinks in bath MODEL OPEN DAILY!!
Call 323-9006 for more info on this listing. For thousands of Austin Area listings visit
www.AustinCityLiving.com

705 Beardsley Lane – 4 bed/3.5 bath/3 car. Private large white stone home tucked away in the privacy of expansive foliage, Pool, hot tub, Covered patio w/ceramic tile decking, spacious family&living areas flow from kitchen overlooking hill country views, beautiful decorative indoor stain glass window and much more! Call Austin City Living at 323-9006 for more information. For thousands of Austin Area listings visit ...
www.AustinCityLiving.com

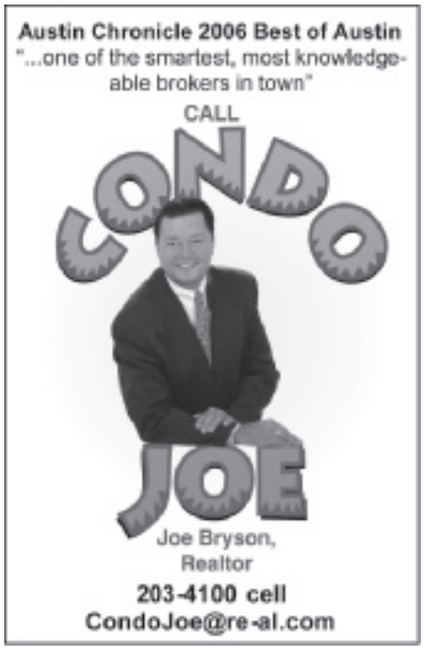
Falcon Pointe 2504 Grand Mission way $189,990, MLS # 6374994
3 bed/ 2 bath/ 2 car garage - 4 sides brick, walk to schools, sod/ sprinkler,stainless appliances, 1/2 car garage extension.Granite counters and stainless steel appliances. Model Home is Open.
Call 323-9006
For thousands of Austin Area listings visit ...
www.AustinCityLiving.com

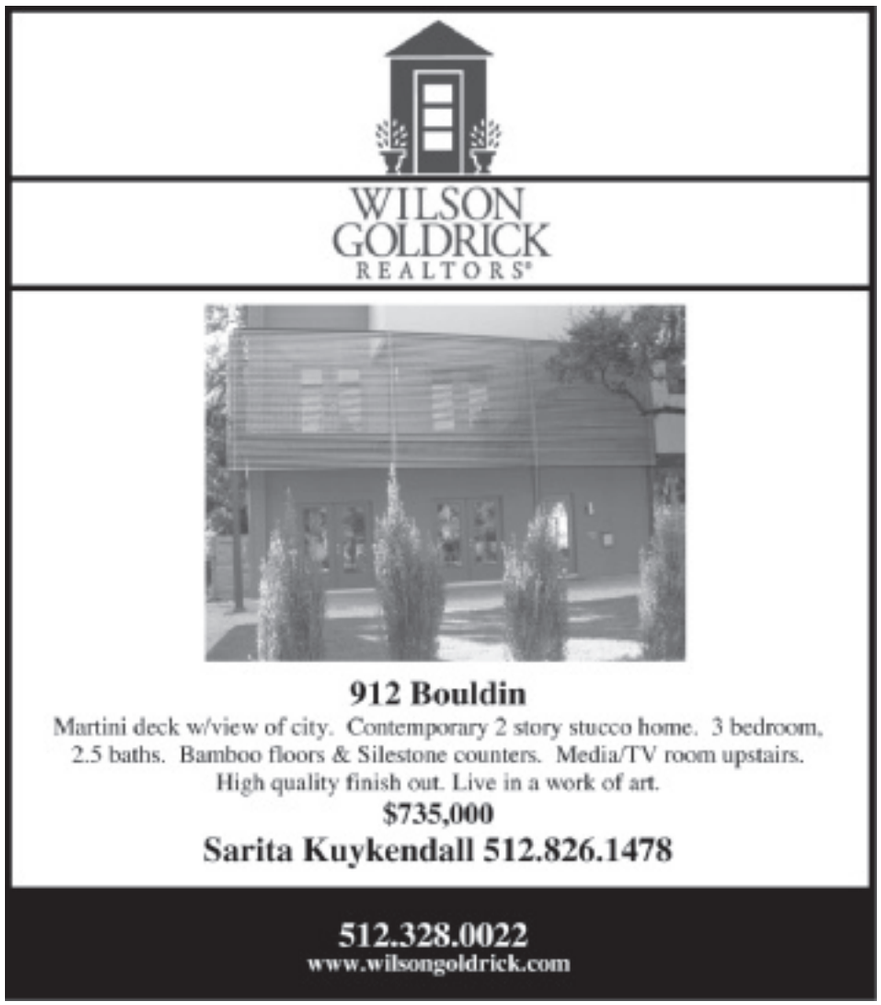
Falcon Pointe 3109 Richfield Landing $292,816, MLS # 7325794
Huge 80 foot wide Lot! 4bed/3bath 2 1/2 car garage, Large Living and dining, Media room, His and Hers closets, Huge kitchen with island and extra counter space, 42" cabs, Extended back patio plumbed with gas, sprinkler system and much more!
Call 323-9006. For thousands of Austin Area listings visit
www.AustinCityLiving.com

Now Selling 6th Street Spaces at Este Condominiums! 1 & 2 bedroom residences are available from the $180s. Call Andrew Shaw (786-6356) for more info or for an appt. in the marketing center located at 1601 E. 5th St. in the Saltillo Lofts.

BECOME A HOMEOWNER TODAY! NEW CONSTRUCTION AND FORECLOSURES AVAILABLE!
Renting now, no problem. Break your lease with no penalties. Looking for your first home or your dream home, don't delay, call **623-6405** today! **www.luxuryaustinproperties.com**

UPPER EAST SIDE
CONDO HOMES
"A modern, urban oasis across from Mueller... 2/2.5 residences from the low $200ks"
NEXT 2 CONTRACTS, 6 MONTHS PAID BY SELLER
512.762.3144
GreenviewAustin.com
Greenview





BUY/SELL/TRADE

310 ANTIQUES COLLECTIBLES

CAMERAS Brownie Hawkeye with flash,Kodak Disc models 4100/3000w/cases,Kodak 1A pocket,Brownie Jr's models 616/620.All 6 for $80. kazafox1@hotmail.com

315 APPLIANCES

WASHER DRYER $130.ea New Style $175.ea Set $230. New Style Set $350.Del.& instll w/ 13 mnth Warranty.512-581-0355

325 CLOTHING

APPAREL

GOTH • PUNK • T-SHIRTS

Clothing, stickers, patches, pins, jewelry, corsets.
• 1905 S. 1st. •
• www.secretoktober.com •
462-9217

345 FURNITURE

50% OFF FURNITURE
Local Austin Furniture Shop Has Over 7500 Items
Online.512-279-2286
6100 Airport - NccFurniture.com

$79 QUEEN PILOWTOP
Twin $59, Full $69, King $125. New Sets, 6100 Airport. 744-4369

BEDROOM FURNITURE
Bed $299, Dres/Mirr $349, Chest $249 Nightstand, $149, TV Armoire $549 Wood Dovetailed Drawers 314-8091
6100 Airport -
NccFurniture.com

BEDROOM SET 7-piece. Dovetail drawers. Solid wood. Brand new! List $2,499. Sacrifice $925.(512) 963-0796.

BEDROOM SET Six-piece bedroom set. Brand new! List $1,200. Sell $499. Call today (512) 963-0796.

FURNITURE
Old Monterey Furniture, old Mexican paitings & old tile tables. Call Richard at Antioch Nursery 661-245-1147.

LIVING ROOM FURNITURE
LR: Sofa $599-Love $499-Chair $399 Micro: Sofa $299-Love $250-CH $199
Home Theater Chairs $899. 314-9172 6100 Airport -
NccFurniture.com

MATTRESS $99 QUEEN PILLOWTOP. Mattress set. New with warranty. Call today (512) 963-0796.

MATTRESS $275 MEMORY FOAM mattress set. Still packaged (512) 963-0796.

MATTRESS SET $215 KING PILLOWTOP mattress set. Brand new! Can deliver. (512) 963-0796.

MATTRESS SET FULL, $85. New in package. Can deliver. (512) 963-0796.

MATTRESS SETS Bed $109 a bargain! PT mattress set new in plastic with warranty. Full $159, Queen $179, King $249. Can del. 512-844-3158

NCCFURNITURE.COM
Local Discount Quality Furniture. Mattress Sets QN starting @ $79. Big Pillowtops QN Matt Sets $199. Table & 4 Chairs Starting @ $149. Sofa & Loveseats Starting @ $499. Solid Wood 5 PC
Bedrooms $699. Slate Pool Tables starting @ $999.
6100 Airport, open 10-7, 279-2286

NEW PILLOWTOPS in original packaging with warranty. Twin set $179, Full $239, Queen $249, King $375. Delivery avail. 512-844-3158

NCCFURNITURE.com
Local discount quality furniture. Matching Mattress Sets @ T $75. FL $99, QN $125, KN @ $199. Table & 4 Chairs Start @ $149. Sofa & Loveseats Start @ $499. Wood 5 PC Bedrooms @ $699. 8 FT Pool Tables start @ $799. 6100 Airport, 279-2286 @ 10-7

POOL TABLE +SET UP
1" slate-solid wood -
Accessory Kit List $2899 - Now $1399. 512-314-5196 6100 Airport -
NccFurniture.com

SLEIGH BED Queen Cherry Sleigh Bed, $225. Brand new. Can deliver. 963-0796.

SOFA Leather Sofa + Love Seat. Brand new. Can deliver. Call today (512) 963-0796.

SOFA/LOVE SEAT $499 Microfiber Sofa and Love Seat. Brand new! Stain resist. Lifetime warranty (512)963-0796.

355 GENERAL

HOT TUB 4-5 person hot tub. Like new. $1200. Call 956-466-3823.

FOR SALE U2, Bob Dylan, Willie ... did you miss out on these shows? Make sure it doesn't happen again. The Austin Chronicle's For Sale section has all the shows you can ask for.

TREADMILL WESLO G-25 TREADMILL, new rarely used w/speed, incline, time, distance, calories. $175 (512) 731-5507. can be seen at http://www.treadmillscentral.com/cadence_g_25_treadmill.html

365 PETS PET SUPPLIES

ADOPTION SAVE ONE DOG - SAVE THE WORLD! Wanted: Super Homes for our Super Dogs! For Adoptions call Utopia Animal Rescue Ranch 830-589-7544 or check out our dogs at : www.utopiarescue.com

DOG Papillon pups for sale. 7 mos. old; 2 males; red/white; very affectionate; crate trained. Great Christmas gift, $300. Contact Melody at lowery_bev@sbcglobal.net or 512-560-9776.

DOGS English bulldog pups @www.superbulldogz.com

DOGS Yorkie AKC, Morkie AKC and Maltese, all ready for Dec25th, please call 281-546-0176

DOGS English Bulldog Puppy, AKC, 9 wks, male, white w/ markings, excellent pedigree including Ocobo and Cobb. $2250. Christmas puppies ready 12/27@$1800 (972) 288-4099.

FRENCH BULLDOG AKC French Bulldog Pups. Email pups@zensublimecafe.com or call 512-740-120 or www.zensublimecafe.com

PET DOG 3 AKC Female pomeranian 8wks parti w/ Champ Blood & Teddy bear face; 1 male AKC Blue Tan Parti 10 mths. smart and can do tricks $700+ Located at Pearland, TX (512) 669-1684

YORKIE PUPPIES Adorable male pups, CKC registered, 1st shots, wormed, health guaranteed, litter training, born 9.21.07, $800 each, 979-220-6973, yorkielovin@gmail.com, http://yorkeepuppees.weebly.com.

375 TICKETS ENTERTAINMENT

ALL

BEST TICKETS
474-4468

...ALL BOWL GAMES...
...MICHAEL BUBLE....
...DAME EDNA....
..UT BASKETBALL..
.HANNAH MONTANA...
.GEORGE STRAIT.
.....SPRINGSTEEN.....
..SAN ANTONIO SPURS...
.....GARRISON KEILLOR.....
..VAN HALEN..
.PLAYHOUSE DISNEY.
..LITTLE RICHARD...
..MONSTER JAM..
....CELINE DION....
...TUNA CHRISTMAS...
..ROBERT EARL KEEN..
..TRANS-SIBERIAN..
...DALLAS COWBOYS...
WWW.BESTTIX.COM
474-4468

TICKETS
We "B" Tickets * Best Seats * Best Prices *
* Police * Tool *
* Phantom of the Opera *
* Trans Siberian Orch.*
* Blue Man Group * NBA *
* Pickup/Mail Order 448-2303

SERVICES

410 BUSINESS

AUTO

AUTO IMAGE
- Pinstripes
- Auto Graphics
- Truck Accessories
- Spoilers
- Bumper Replacement

www.austinautoimage.com
7200-B Mcneil Rd.
(512)249-7115

PHONE SERVICE Local telephone service $7.95! Sign up today online at http://www.universalnumber.com

WEB DESIGN 4-page website for $475. Visit Josey.net or call 512-350-7099.

RESTAURANT "KIM SON" Austin's newest premier Asian Restaurant and Banquet Venue will open it's doors this Saturday, December 22 for Dim Sum only from 10:30am to 3:00pm until Tuesday and then open for regular lunch and dinner on Wednesday, December 26. Kim Son is located in the new Chinatown Plaza on N. Lamar and Kramer. For more information, go to www.chinatownaustin.com. Phone: 512.832.0500 Address: 10901 N. Lamar Austin, TX 78753 *Now Accepting Applications

SERVICES
Here's today's "TO DO" list:
Hire movers.
Install toilet.
Hire designer to set up website.
File taxes.
Learn Spanish.
Where to start? The Austin Chronicle's Service section.

415 COMPUTERS

COMPUTER REPAIR

COMPUTER MEDIC
Complete Computer Service
Now offering good deals on refurbished PCs, laptops, & MacIntosh computers.
Professional service at a fair price.
Call 512-442-7991
MC*Visa*Amex*Discover

425 HEALTH WELLNESS

EYEGLASSES $8 PRESCRIPTION EYEGLASSES. Custom made to your prescription, stylish plastic or metal frame, Highindex, UV protection, antiscratch lens, case, lenscloth for only $8. Also available: Rimless, Titanium, Children's, Bifocals, Progressives, Suntints, ARcoating, etc. http://ZENNIOPTICAL.COM (AAN CAN)

430 HOME

DRYWALL Sheetrock/Tape/Float Texture New Work/Patchwork Popcorn Removal. Residential/Commercial. 25 years in Austin. Free Estimates. 292-6184

MR. FIX IT
Home remodeling and repair
HANDYMAN SERVICES
painting, drywall repair, plumbing, yardwork, & lots more.
CALL MR. FIX IT
A handyman you will come to know & trust
436-6913, 954-701-2005 cell
Available 24/7

ROCKET'S
HANDYMAN SERVICE & GENERAL CONSTRUCTION
MAKE-READYS • DECK & FENCE REPAIR
TILE WORK AND MORE
785-6079

Henderson Plumbing
452-5963
• Licensed plumbing repair
• Drain cleaning
• 29 years experience
• Clean, personal service
• Austin attitude
452-5963
Leave message.

Neighborhood Tech Services
Audio - Video - Installation - Wiring
Expert Help to Set Up Your New Toys
512.251.5872
512.736.7540 cell
dfn2109@sbcglobal.net

• SPOILERS
• BUMPER REPLACEMENT
• PINSTRIPES
• AUTO GRAPHICS
• TRUCK ACCESSORIES
Auto Image
(512) 249-7115
www.austinautoimage.com
7200-B McNeil Dr.

DRYWALL/INSULATION
Sheetrock/Tape/Float/Texture
New Work/Patchwork/Popcorn Removal
Residential/Commercial
25 years in Austin
Free Estimates
292-6184

Pet of the Week
RUBY
Ruby is a gentle 5+yr old Collie/Chow mix. If you're looking for a mellow, easy-going female that will eat pizza with you while you watch the weekend game, Ruby's your girl! It's not often you can find that, eh guys?
CHRONICLE Austin Humane Society
124 W. Anderson Ln. 512-837-7985

TRADE UP
POST YOUR FREE AD NOW
CHRONICLE
austinchronicle.com/tradeup

Computer • Medic
Complete Service Computer
Now offering good deals on refurbished PCs, laptops, and MacIntosh computers
512 • 442 • 7991
Professional service at a fair price
MC - VISA - AMEX - DISCOVER

Tails Wagging
Dog Walking and Pet Sitting
832-1320
www.tails-wagging.com
insured & bonded

NIKE is a gentle and loving soul who will greet you and sweetly put her paw on you to say hello. She is 8 years old and has many years of love left to give. She's declawed.
260-SPCA CALL FOR HOURS
909 S. BAGDAD RD., LEANDER, TX
CENTRALTEXASSPCA.COM
CHRONICLE

Handyman Dan
Quality Home Repair & Remodeling
• Tile & flooring
• Drywall repair & paint
• Carpentry & decks
• Window replacement • Pressure washing
• Small home fix-its • Free estimates
References available dang35@excite.com
512-653-2884

HANDYMAN

ROCKET'S
HANDYMAN SERVICE & GENERAL CONSTRUCTION
• Make-readys • Decks
• Fences • Painting
• Floor & Bath Tile
• And More!
Call Mike at
785-6079

Handyman Get your home ready for the holidays. Call Mr. Fix It, a handyman you will come to know and trust. On call 24/7! 436-6913 or 462-2838.

HDTV CALIBRATION Get the most out of your HDTV. Let Austin HD Experts calibrate your HDTV or work with you to design the home theater you've always wanted. www.AustinHD-Experts.com

HOME REPAIR Handyman Dan. Quality home repair and remodeling. References available, FREE estimates. Call 512-653-2884 or e-mail danq35@excite.com

LANDSCAPING Lawn Shrub Maintnence/Installation, Tree trimming, Stone patios, beds, retaining walls, and walk-ways. Call 659-7200

LANDSCAPING, Yard Work/ Painting. Trees, Hauling, Moving, Clean-Up, handy-man. Luis 243-3466 anytime.

PAINTING Interior, Exterior, by Breakey. 20 yrs. Exp. Call Duane for free Ext. 407-8011

PLUMBING

Henderson Plumbing.

Licensed Plumbing Repair & Drain Cleaning. 29 yrs. exp. Austin attitude,
Clean Personal Service.

Call 452-5963 leave message.

SERVICES
Here's today's "TO DO" list: Hire movers. Install toilet. Hire designer to set up website. File taxes. Learn Spanish.

Where to start? The Austin Chronicle's Service section.

TECH SERVICES
NEIGHBORHOOD TECH SERVICES
Audio, Video, Installation & Wiring
EXPERT HELP TO SET UP YOUR NEW TOYS
512.521.5872
512.736.7540 cell
dfn2109@sbcglobal.net

435 FINANCIAL

CREDIT REPAIR! CREDIT REPAIR! Erase bad credit legally Money back Warranty, FREE Consultation & Information: 1-866-410-7676 http:// www.nationalcreditbuilders.com (AAN CAN)

WEBSITE Looking for something more? Check out **austinchronicle.com/classifieds** for even more great ads online.

GRANTS ****$700,-$800,000 FREE CASH GRANTS/PROGRAMS-2007!, Personal bills, School, Business/Housing. Approx. $49 billion unclaimed 2006! Almost Everyone Qualifies! Live Operators 1-800-592-0362 Ext. 235. (AAN CAN)

HOME BUSINESS DATA ENTRY PROCESSORS NEEDED! Earn $3,500 - $5,000 Weekly Working from Home! Guaranteed Paychecks! No Experience Necessary! Positions Available Today! Register Online Now! http:// www.BigPayWork.com (AAN CAN)

HOME BUSINESS HELP WANTED Earn Extra income assembling CD cases from Home. Start Immediately. No Experience Necessary. 1-800-405-7619 ext. 150 http:// www.easywork-greatpay.com (AAN CAN)

HOME BUSINESS TIRED OF THE RAT RACE? Are you ready to live life to the fullest? Have you heard of THE SECRET? Visi t http:// www.TheCareerWinner.com (AAN CAN)

HOME BUSINESS MAKE $150/HOUR Get Paid Cash for Your Opinion! Earn $5 to $75 to fill out simple surveys online. Start NOW! http:// www.paidchoice.com (AAN CAN)

HOME BUSINESS HOME REFUND JOBS! Earn $3,500 - $5,000 Weekly Processing Company Refunds Online! Guaranteed Paychecks! No Experience Needed! Positions Available Today! Register Online Now! http:// www.RebateWork.com (AAN CAN)

LIFE INSURANCE $25,000-$250,000. NO MEDICAL EXAM. Affordable ING Policy. One hour to protect who you love. Patrick Johnson 512-784-4819.

POST OFFICE JOBS AVAILABLE. Avg. Pay $20/Hour or $57K annually including Gederal benefits and OT. Paid Training, Vacations. PT/FT. 1-866-616-7019 USWA (AAN CAN)

BACK PAGE
Advertise your product or service on the Back Page! Call 454-5765 today!

SETTLEMENTS $CASH$ Immediate Cash for Structured Settlements, Annuities, Law Suits, Inheritance, Mortgage Notes & Cash Flows. J.G. WENTWORTH #1 1-800-794-7310 (AAN CAN)

450 LICENSED MASSAGE

ADV. BODYWORK #920
Quiet Mind...
Quiet Body...
Call Gayle 351-5538

ALTERNATIVE rmt#31534
.....??DRAPING??.....
.....THATS FOR WINDOWS.....
.....Call KAT 445-0280.....

ALTERNATIVE Esalen, 26 years experience. Perfect relaxation massage. Private setting. Shower. Convenient location. $10 off. Janet, 892-8877. RMT#2271.

ALT/MEDICAL rmt#31534
*** UGHHHHGH!!! ***
Skip the Meeting,
come here instead! 445-0280

ALTERNATIVE Relaxation Therapy. Downtown office, RMT39649 (512) 653-3438.

BODY AND SOUL
Be one with the universe.
Pulsate energy.
Read The Austin Chronicle's Body & Soul section.

ALTERNATIVE rmt#31534
*** "THE GETAWAY" ***
Soft music, Warm hands, Candle light, Glass of wine
445-0280

ALTERNATIVE rmt#31534
*** Tight, Sore, Hurt? ***
Get a Kat-Woman Massage!
445-0280

ALTERNATIVE Awesome Hands (back in town!!) Deep tissue, relaxation or sports massage, downtown at 12th/ Lamar, relaxingrituals.net (RMT043975) Call (512) 940-4087.

STRESSED? *Relax and be Pampered!*
Take A Mini Vacation
• Warm oil, table and hands
• Blissful light to medium touch
CALL KIMBERLY!
417- 4141
RMT5028

sarah rose massage
nurturing *intuitive* *holistic*
• 14 years experience
• Beautiful Central Austin (Travis Heights) location
(512) 590-4554
www.sarahrosemassage.com
MT#010471

BOBBY RAY'S
By appt. in S. Austin
in call / out call
512.589.5215
austinmassage4u@gmail.com
LRMT #100897
AUSTIN MASSAGE

Sweetishmassage.com
by Jeannie
360° FULL BODY
RMT 8896
512-444-2256

FULL BODY WARM OIL CANDLELIGHT MASSAGE
IN/OUT **444-3831**
by Sharon CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED
BLISSFULLY RELAXING! ... SPECIAL EXPERIENCE!
www.xanga.com/true_relaxations
RMT 011399

AWESOMETOUCH.COM
for the discriminating client
OUTCALLS AVAILABLE/DOWNTOWN
Sandy
512-326-8521
RMT 2474

FOR **RELIEF** FROM PAIN, TINGLING, OR NUMBNESS IN YOUR FEET OR HANDS. PLANTAR FASCIITIS, ACHILLES HEEL, & CARPAL TUNNEL TREATMENTS
HOLIDAY SPECIAL $45 FOR 1 HR. & $75 FOR 1½ HRS.
GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE UNTIL DEC. 31ST
ANCIENT HEALING WAYS
MC/VISA 512/ 773-5775

www.ChineseHealingTherapy.com
PROFESSIONAL APPT./INCALL ONLY 512-363-9889 THERAPEUTIC

A Journey Beyond
Sensations by Mary Ellen
The Ultimate Experience In Relaxation
EXQUISITE!
Full Body Massage · Herbal Baths
Warm Oil · Hot Tub Massage
MC/VISA · RMT#9644 · 927-8366

Gayle Temkin
Refined, Caring, Knowledgeable
30-years experience
60-120 minute treatments
351-5538
10am-8am South Austin
OceanaBodywork.com
#920

Allow the body and the spirit the serenity you deserve....
BRUCE KIMBALL
MASSAGE THERAPIST
DEEP TISSUE • SWEDISH • SPORTS
512.673.8072 • www.healtosoul.com
Bruce@healtosoul.com RMT#38417

The Right Touch
Total relaxation massage
Chinese, Swedish, Couples, and four-hand massage
by Jade Liu
Soothing, sensitive
RMT #36404
804-0794

TRY A LITTLE SELF INDULGENCE
$50 for 1 HOUR
$75 for 90 MINUTES
$90 for 120 MINUTES
680-7072
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
RMT042536

There are more
SERVICES
ads online at
austinchronicle.com/class

RELAXING RITUALS
BY APPOINTMENT
Melody, RMT# 043975
RELAXATION/ DEEP TISSUE
DOWNTOWN LOCATION
940-4087 www.relaxingrituals.net

SOOTHING MASSAGE
Swedish Massage
Deep and Relaxation
Full Body Massage
by appointment only
Mon-Sat 10am-7pm, In Call
258-1592
RMT 042276 North Austin - 183 N./Anderson Mill

A Gentle Touch Massage Therapy
by Julie RMT #42743
75 Minutes $60
1 Hour only $50
585-4752
S. Austin & Bastrop

Fabulous Massages
• Body Scrubs
• Hot Stones
• Warm Oil
• Hotel Outcalls
In/Outcalls 9am-2am
569-7001
Se Habla Español
MT45307

MASSAGE TO TAKE YOU AWAY
ROMAN PLEASURES
512-653-3438
Anne

OUTCALLS NOON TO LATE NIGHT. Relieve stress, headache, back, neck pain, sore muscles, or just relax & enjoy. **Magic Palms Therapeutic Massage**. $65/75 mins. **Call 512-281-6274**. RMT #45388. myspace.com/magicpalms 7901 Cameron @183 #236. Call in advance.

CONTINUED

450 LICENSED MASSAGE

ALTERNATIVE (LMT#13296)

Professional Therapeutic Massage

ANNE 444-5985

LET ME PAMPER YOU!

Bubbling Herbal Bath and Soothing Massage

South Austin Location

Relaxing Home Setting

Draping Upon Request

Same Day Appointment

CCs Welcome

ALTERNATIVE

COME GET YOUR SHINEY HINEY SESSION!

(512)444-2256

Jeannie

www.sweetishmassage.com

RMT#8896

(See photo ad)

ALTERNATIVE to pain and stress. Austin's best professional therapeutic massage to relieve, relax, and revitalize. Easy access from North & Central Austin. HOLIDAY SPECIALS! 789-6278, Nanette, MT017147

ALTERNATIVE Renew and recharge with a luxuriously relaxing and blissfully comforting full body warm oil massage by Sharon! (RMT011399) Ben White/ Manchaca area. Candle light, shower facility,soft music, peaceful environment! http://www.xanga.com/true_relaxations 512-444-3831

ALTERNATIVE Take a mini vacation, relax and be pampered! Warm oil and hands, blissful light to medium touch. RMT5028 (CALL KIMBERLY at 417-4141).

AUSTIN CHINESE MASSAGE

www.ChineseHealingTherapy.com The perfect combination of physical and mental relaxation...Call 512-363-9889 MT# 40095

DEEP SWEDISH

Gay Friendly N Austin massage. Trained in Austin 6 yrs exp. Quiet, private studio. Shower available. www.HealToSoul.com. Call Bruce 673-8072 or email Bruce@healtosoul.com RMT# 38417

DEEP SWEDISH SPORTS

Austin Massage Clinic - Mon.-Fri. 10-7. For Walk-ins or Same Day Appts. Open Weekends by Appt Only. RMT 27632 Call 477-3333

DEEP TISSUE/SWEDISH 12 yrs. exp. Initial 1 1/2 hr $65. Nina Powers #8574 708-1970 bodyharmonymassage.com

GENERAL In/Outcalls, 24/7, Private Studio, Shower. FULL BODY MASSAGE by James. Call 554-2248. (RMT017905)

GENERAL A PHENOMENAL MASSAGE Receive a professional and Therapeutic massage in: Swedish, Trigger Point, Hot Stone & Deep Tissue. Introducing new package deals. 680-7072 RMT#042536

GENERAL NURTURING TOUCH, "Sense-sational" Full Body Relaxation. Mon-Sat 10am-6pm. Arboretum area. Linda (MT4330) 241-3619.

BODY AND SOUL Lost faith in Dionne? Miss Cleo steer you wrong? Couldn't get tickets for "Crossing Over?" Try a psychic in The Austin Chronicle's Body & Soul section and finally reveal the meaning behind that Adam Sandler dream.

GENERAL

MELT TENSION

THROUGH MASSAGE BY TRACEY LEIGH

627-3333

OPEN EVERYDAY

M/V/AX RMT# 21699

http://www.melttension.com

GENERAL Comfortable, quiet, considerate, careful and thoughtful. 470-6525 (RMT013588).

GENERAL Treat yourself to a relaxing hot oil, full-body Swedish massage in a candle-lit, private room/ shower, 24/7, in/out calls. Clint 775-9164 - RMT# 34842

GENERAL

Foot or Hand Pain??

For relief from the tingling, painful burning sensation, or numbness in your hands or feet. MT#102130

Call

512-773-5775

V/MC Accepted

GENERAL A journey beyond sensations... by Mary Ellen. The ultimate experience in relaxation! Full Body Massage, Herbal Baths, Warm Oils, Hot Tub Massage, MC/VISA (RMT#9644) 927-8366.

GENERAL Same day only. South Austin. Call Jen, Cell: 203-7271 RMT#7400 10AM - 10PM & later.

GENERAL A Great Massage for Men by Bob. North location (RMT#013795) Call 9am-10pm, 7 days/week. (512) 296-4111.

GENERAL Therapeutic Relief. In/Out calls, 9am-7pm daily. Eva, Call 282-4426. RMT#3830.

GENERAL Stressed in South West? Swedish, Sports, Deep, Relaxation, Hot Stone. In-calls only. Special New Client Rates, Tony (RMT#3233) 346-6210

GENERAL SOOTHING MASSAGE. Experienced, professional. N. Austin / Spicewood Springs Rd. M-Sat. 10am-7pm. Cash only. By appointment only. 258-1592. RMT 042276.

GENERAL * PAMPER YOURSELF! * The Executive Touch Massage. Specializing in Total Relaxation. Call Kim 828-2151, RMT023154

GENERAL Remember how to relax this holiday season... Gift yourself to a luxurious deep-tissue Swedish massage from a very empathetic therapist. Located East Central/University area. Happy Holidays! Kasey Smith, MT#17406. 457-8496.

PRESSURE POINT

PRESSURE POINT MASSAGE & FACIALS

Specialising in Chinese Pressure Point Massage and Deep Pore Facial.

Southwest Austin

Pao-Chuan (Bonnie Yu), RMT #23296, 656-2054

REFLEXOLOGY Soothing, Therapeutic Massage, and ion detox foot bath. Holiday speicails. J'Amy, LRMT#017236 636-6883.

RELAXATION The Right Touch. Chinese, Swedish style. Sensitive. Call Jade Liu 804-0794 - RMT#36404

RELAXATION Massage by young college student. Call Greg for soothing massage. In/Out calls. RMT# 22435. Cellular, 512-496-3527.

RELAXATION Therapy for men by talented male masseur. Michael Alan (RMT021801) 636-4200.

RELAXATION Fabulous massages. Full body relaxation, body scrubs, hot stones, warm oil. Outcalls, 9am-12am. 569-7001. MT#045207

RELAXATION

Private setting in S. Austin. Full body massage with warm oil by masculine guy with strong, sensitive hands.

Don, RMT #28735

585-9450

www.elmforestmassage.net

RELAXATION New to North Austin!! Soft Gentle Touch by Female therapist. Comfortable atmosphere, water fountain, soft music, warm table & oil. Full Body 1 or 1 1/2 hour sessions for the mature Gentleman. Quiet office near 35/183. Call M-Sat 8am - 5pm 673-6678 MT#41442

RELAXATION Full Body Massage for the discriminating man; soothing techniques to remedy your needs; wkdays, 6-9 PM, Wkends/Holidays, 10A-9P; Don, 970-1131, Zilker Pk. area. MT#032673

SWEDISH A Gentle Touch Massage. Experience a meditative massage to decrease stress & increase your well being. $60/75 min., $50/60 min. 10:30am-6:30 pm.. South Austin and Bastrop locations. Call Julie today!. 512-585-4752. RMT#042748.

SWEDISH 15yrs experience. Nurturing, Intuitive, Holistic. Beautiful central Austin, Travis Heights location. (MT#010471) www.sarahrosemassage.com Call Sarah at (512) 590-4554.

THERAPEUTIC Muscular work. In calls. 10am-10pm. Monday-Friday. LMT# 021317. Call 512-658-9270.

455 PSYCHIC ASTROLOGY

PSYCHIC READINGS Tarot or channeled writing; Austin unique. This is it. Donations only. Phone (512) 569-4767.

465 MISCELLANEOUS

DATING Curious Local Bi-Guys!

4829 Call 512-735-0000 or 800-777-8000

FREE w/ Code 8904

InteractiveMmale.com

PETSITTING South Austin. Professional care while you're away or working.

TailsSafe.com 350-7210

PERMANENT MAKEUP Wake up with Makeup. Cosmetic tattooing for men & women. Natural looking lash enhancement, eyebrows, lip color. See http://www.pmubylauren.com or call 743-7234 for details.

FREE ADS

Got a car you need to sell?

Looking for a roommate?

Want to unload that old refrigerator?

Got a great idea for a band, but missing some musicians?

All you need to do is go online to **www.austinchronicle.com/classifieds** and post your ad for FREE.

Make it stand out with pictures! Highlight it by making it a featured ad! You can even run it in print! Ads run online for 30 days, and are posted immediately. After all, immediate gratification takes too long!

515 CLASSES WORKSHOPS

SPANISH Learn to speak Spanish. This ongoing course relies heavily on visual material, word association and games. http://www.creativelanguagecenter.com 453-8680.

SPANISH

Someday, I'll Learn SPANISH!!??

No luck with traditional classes and workbooks? Hate Studying? Don't have much time? Think learning can't be fun? Use your whole brain by tapping into the extraordinary mental capacities we all have, but seldom use, with the most advanced and enjoyable teaching and learning method available today. 263-9944 * All Levels * Class Schedules, Fees and more at **http://www.RapidSpanish.com**

DANCE

AUSTIN SWING

Thursday Night Swing Dance

2312 San Gabriel St.

8:00pm-midnight

$5 admission

Free intro class at 8:15

Come dance at one of the nation's friendliest swing dance communities!

austinswingsyndicate.org

525 EVENTS

MEDIEVAL CHRISTMAS Join Austin City Church for a Kemper Krabb Concert celebrating Christmas. December 30th at 5:30pm. www.austincitychurch.com

PCR LIVE Austin has it's own call in show! PCR LIVE check it out now at http://propercritic.com

530 GENERAL

ADOPTION CONSIDERING ADOPTION? We match Birthmothers with Families nationwide. LIVING EXPENSES PAID. Toll Free 24/7 Abby's One True Gift Adoptions 866-413-6293. (AAN CAN)

NEW CHURCH Coming January 2008!!! http://theFAITHelement.org

535 LOST & FOUND

LOST TABBY CAT Tundra disappeared from 183/Duval on 11/17. Last seen wearing a red collar and ID tag. He has HUGE front paws, is polydactyl. Brown and black stripes. Please call!

545 LEGAL NOTICES

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for Mixed Beverage Permit, Food and Beverage Certificate, and Beverage Cartage Permit, by NRV HC Galleria, LP General Partner Neptune Restaurant Ventures, LLC dba Fish City Grill, 13500 Galleria Cir. Ste. 120, Bee Cave, Travis County, Texas 78738. Officers of said LLC are Victor Wayne Smith, Pres/VP/Sec/Treas/Mgr/Mem; Julie Ann Smith, Member.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for Mixed Beverage Permit, Food and Beverage Certificate, and Beverage Cartage Permit, by NRV Triangle, LP General Partner Neptune Restaurant Ventures, LLC dba Fish City Grill, 4616 Triangle Ave. Ste 200, Austin, Travis County, Texas 78751. Officers of said LLC are Victor Wayne Smith, Pres/VP/Sec/Treas/Mgr/Mem; Julie Ann Smith, Member.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for Mixed Beverage Restaurant Permit, Food And Beverage Certificate, and Beverage Cartage Permit by Tony C's 71 LP, General Partner Tony C' 71 GP, LLC dba Cugino's Pizzeria Napoletana, 12800 Hill Country Blvd., Suite G-160, Austin, Travis County, Texas 78738. Officers of said LLC are Dan Ciola, President and John Inness, Vice President/ Secretary.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for A MIXED BEVERAGE PERMIT by SWH Liquor Company d/b/a Mimi's Cafe, located at 12613 Galleria Circle, Bee Cave, Travis County, Texas 78738. Officer of said corporation is Jeremy Leslie Hartley, President and Secretary.

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS

CAUSE NO: D-1-GN-07-004026 To: BEATRICE DURAN Defendant(s), in the hereinafter styled and numbered cause: YOU (AND EACH OF YOU) HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance hereof, that is to say at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of Monday the JANUARY 21, 2008, and answer the ORIGINAL PETITION of Plaintiff(s), filed in the 353RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT of Travis County, Texas, on NOVEMBER 28, 2007, a default judgment may be taken against you.

Said suit being number D-1-GN-07-004026, in which JOHN DURAN Plaintiff(s), and BETTY DOTY, ET. AL. Defendant(s), and the nature of which said suit is as follows:

SUIT TO PARTITION 6.29 UNIMPROVED ACRES OF LAND DESCRIBED AS ABS. 479, SUR. 2, LEWIS W. AUSTIN, TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS, AMONG THE HEIRS OF LUISA DURAN, DECEASED

ALL OF WHICH MORE FULLY APPEARS FROM PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION ON FILE IN THIS OFFICE, AND WHICH REFERENCE IS HERE MADE FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Austin, Texas, December 04, 2007.

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA

Travis County District Clerk

Travis County Courthouse

1000 Guadalupe, P.O. Box 679003 (78767)

Austin, Texas 78701

By /s/ Diana Staton, Deputy

REQUESTED BY:

JAMES R. THOMPSON

P.O. BOX 246

COPPERAS COVE, TX 76522

BUSINESS PHONE: (254) 547-7536

FAX: (254) 547-4157

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF GEORGE MARC WEST, Deceased, No. 87813 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

JEFFERSON BLAKE WEST alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on the 3RD day of DECEMBER, 2007, an APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATOR AND TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP in the said estate and request(s) that the said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said GEORGE MARC WEST, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Travis County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, this the 3rd day of December, 2007.

DANA DEBEAUVOIR

County Clerk,

Travis County, Texas

P.O. Box 149325,

Austin, Texas 78714

By Deputy: /s/ Kaitanya L. Bush

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS

CAUSE NO: D-1-GN-07-004026 To: LUPE CEMATS Defendant(s), in the hereinafter styled and numbered cause: YOU (AND EACH OF YOU) HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance hereof, that is to say at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of Monday the JANUARY 21, 2008, and answer the ORIGINAL PETITION of Plaintiff(s), filed in the 353RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT of Travis County, Texas, on NOVEMBER 28, 2007, a default judgment may be taken against you.

Said suit being number D-1-GN-07-004026, in which JOHN DURAN Plaintiff(s), and BETTY DOTY, ET. AL. Defendant(s), and the nature of which said suit is as follows:

SUIT TO PARTITION 6.29 UNIMPROVED ACRES OF LAND DESCRIBED AS ABS. 479, SUR. 2, LEWIS W. AUSTIN, TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS, AMONG THE HEIRS OF LUISA DURAN, DECEASED

ALL OF WHICH MORE FULLY APPEARS FROM PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION ON FILE IN THIS OFFICE, AND WHICH REFERENCE IS HERE MADE FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Austin, Texas, December 04, 2007.

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA

Travis County District Clerk

Travis County Courthouse

1000 Guadalupe, P.O. Box 679003 (78767)

Austin, Texas 78701

By /s/ Diana Staton, Deputy

REQUESTED BY:

JAMES R. THOMPSON

P.O. BOX 246

COPPERAS COVE, TX 76522

BUSINESS PHONE: (254) 547-7536

FAX: (254) 547-4157

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF ARDIS M REWERTS, Deceased, No. 87861 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

RUTH A MULLER, MILAN REWERTS, MARVIN REWERTS, MYRON REWERTS and D JOYE EIKER alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on the 13TH day of December, 2007, an Application for Judgment Declaring Heirship and for Letters of Independent Administration in the said estate and request(s) that the said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said ARDIS M REWERTS, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Travis County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, this the 13th day of December, 2007.

DANA DEBEAUVOIR

County Clerk,

Travis County, Texas

P.O. Box 149325,

Austin, Texas 78714

By Deputy: /s/ O. Ruiz

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS

CAUSE NO: D-1-GN-07-004026 To: LUCY EVERSON Defendant(s), in the hereinafter styled and numbered cause: YOU (AND EACH OF YOU) HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance hereof, that is to say at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of Monday the JANUARY 21, 2008, and answer the ORIGINAL PETITION of Plaintiff(s), filed in the 353RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT of Travis County, Texas, on NOVEMBER 28, 2007, a default judgment may be taken against you.

Said suit being number D-1-GN-07-004026, in which JOHN DURAN Plaintiff(s), and BETTY DOTY, ET. AL. Defendant(s), and the nature of which said suit is as follows:

SUIT TO PARTITION 6.29 UNIMPROVED ACRES OF LAND DESCRIBED AS ABS. 479, SUR. 2, LEWIS W. AUSTIN, TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS, AMONG THE HEIRS OF LUISA DURAN, DECEASED

ALL OF WHICH MORE FULLY APPEARS FROM PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION ON FILE IN THIS OFFICE, AND WHICH REFERENCE IS HERE MADE FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Austin, Texas, December 04, 2007.

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA

Travis County District Clerk

Travis County Courthouse

1000 Guadalupe, P.O. Box 679003 (78767)

Austin, Texas 78701

By /s/ Diana Staton, Deputy

REQUESTED BY:

JAMES R. THOMPSON

P.O. BOX 246

COPPERAS COVE, TX 76522

BUSINESS PHONE: (254) 547-7536

FAX: (254) 547-4157

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF GUILLERMO TORRES, Deceased, No. 87866 in Probate Court Number One of Travis

County, Texas.

KIRSTI KARIN TORRES alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on the 13th day of DECEMBER, 2007, an Application to Determine Heirship and for Appointment of Independent Administrator without Bond in the said estate and request(s) that the said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said GUILLERMO TORRES, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Travis County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, this the 13th day of December, 2007.

DANA DEBEAUVOIR

County Clerk,

Travis County, Texas

P.O. Box 149325,

Austin, Texas 78714

By Deputy: /s/ Monica Limon

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS

CAUSE NO: D-1-GN-07-003956 TO: THE UNKNOWN SHAREHOLDERS OF O & A ENTERPRISES, INC., A DEFUNCT CORPORATION Defendant(s), in the hereinafter styled and numbered cause: YOU (AND EACH OF YOU) HAVE BEEN SUED. YOu may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance hereof, that is to say at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of Monday the JANUARY 21, 2008, and answer the ORIGINAL PETITION of Plaintiff(s), filed in the 345TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT of Travis County, Texas, on NOVEMBER 15, 2007, a default judgment may be taken against you.

Said suit being number D-1-GN-07-003956, in which DALE R. SMITH Plaintiff(s), and THE UNKNOWN SHAREHOLDERS OF O & A ENTERPRISES, INC., A DEFUNCT CORPORATION, AND THE UNKNOWN SHAREHOLDERS OF NGUYEN- TEH/168, INC., A DEFUNCT Defendant(s), and the nature of which said suit is as follows:

A SUIT TO ESTABLISH THE OWNERSHIP AND LIMITATION TITLE, BY ADVERSE POSSESSION, OF DALE R. SMITH, IN, AND TO, A PARCEL OF REAL PROPERTY AND ALL OF THE IMPROVEMENTS ON THAT PROPERTY LOCATED IN TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS BEING: LOT THREE (3), BLOCK "C", OF SPRING CREEK COMMERICAL PARK, A SUBDIVISION IN TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT OF RECORD IN VOLUME 65, PAGE 23, OF THE PLAT RECORDS OF TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

ALL OF WHICH MORE FULLY APPEARS FROM PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION ON FILE IN THIS OFFICE, AND WHICH REFERENCE IS HERE MADE FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Austin, Texas, November 20, 2007.

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA

Travis County District Clerk

Travis County Courthouse

1000 Guadalupe, P.O. Box 679003 (78767)

Austin, Texas 78701

By /s/ Diana Staton, Deputy

REQUESTED BY:

JERRY KLOSSNER

P.O. BOX 728

WIMBERLEY, TX 78676

BUSINESS PHONE: (512) 573-6590

FAX: (512) 442-7123

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS

CAUSE NO: D-1-FM-07-006283 To: FRANK NIETO CAMPOS and to all who it may concern, Respondent(s); GREETINGS: YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you.

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear and answer before the Honorable District Court, 250TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, Travis County, Texas, at the Courthouse of said County in Austin, Texas, at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of the Monday next after expiration of twenty days from the date of service of this citation, then and there to answer the ORIGINAL PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME OF A CHILD of MARTHA CEBALLOS Petitioner(s), filed in said Court on DECEMBER 10, 2007, against FRANK NIETO CAMPOS Respondent(s), and said suit being entitled "IN THE MATTER OF THE CHANGE OF NAME OF MARIA EUGENIA CAMPOS, A CHILD,", the nature of which suit is a request of NAME CHANGE.

The Name, Birth date, and Place of Birth of said is as follows:

MARIA EUGENIA CAMPOS

NOVEMBER 25, 1992

SAN JOSE, CA

The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree in the child's interest which will be binding on you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity, and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the child's adoption.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Austin, Texas, December 10, 2007.

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA

Travis County District Clerk

Travis County Courthouse

1000 Guadalupe,

P.O. Box 679003 (78767)

Austin, Texas 78701

By/s/ James L. Poole, Deputy

REQUESTED BY:

MARTHA CEBALLOS

5620 ABBY ANN LANE

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78747

CITATION BY PUBLICATION-CIVIL

STATE OF TEXAS

CAUSE NO. D-1-GN-07-002351

GREEN TREE SERVICING, LLC VS. DALIA LOPEZ AND SILBANO MARROQUIN

TO: DALIA LOPEZ, Defendant, GREETING: NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 AM on the Monday next after the expiration of 42 days after the date of issuance of this citaton, which date is January 7, 2008, before the honorable 126th JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT of Travis County, at the Courthouse in said County in Austin, Texas. Said Plaintiff's ORIGINAL Petition was filed on the 30th day of July, 2007 in the above entitled cause.

A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to-wit: On or about January 15, 1998, Defendants executed a Retail Installment Contract and Security Agreement (the "Contract"), in which they promised to pay the amounts stated in the Contract for the 1997 Spirit manufactured home, Serial NO. SCAR1972840310729AB. Defendants have defaulted under the terms of the contract by failing to make the installment payments as a result of the Defendants' default, Plaintiff is also entitled to foreclosure of its security agreement and take immediate possession of the home pursuant to Texas law and terms of the Contract.

as is more fully shown by Plaintiff's ORIGINAL Petition on file in this suit.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at Austin, Texas, this the 20th day of November, 2007.

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA

TRAVIS COUNTY DISTRICT CLERK

P.O. BOX 679003

AUSTIN, TX 78767-9004

BY /s/ Amanda Marty Deputy

ATTY FOR PETITIONER OR PETITIONER

RACHEL E KHIRALLAH

3100 MONTICELLO AVE SUITE 550

DALLAS, TX 75205

CONTRACTOR'S NOTICE OF CONSTRUCTION

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids for the construction of **North Ridge Acres Waterline Improvements (IFB No. B080087-JW), provide and install approximately 2,000 linear feet of 12" trench-less PVC pipe and approximately 12,100 linear feet of direct bury 8" PVC pipe including all fire hydrants, valves, and appurtenances. The project will also include approximately 85 connections between the main line and water meters and approximately 127 service connections between water meters and residences,** in Precinct 2 in Travis County, will be received by the Travis County Purchasing Agent, at the **Travis County Administration Building, 314 West 11th Street, 4th Floor, Suite 400,** until **3:00 p.m., January 9, 2008,** then publicly opened and read in the Travis County Administration Building, 314 West 11th Street, 4th Floor Conference Room, Suite 400, Austin, Texas. The "Date-Time" stamp clock located at the front counter of the Travis County Purchasing Office will serve as the official clock for the purpose of verifying the time of receipt of bids.

All bids shall be addressed to Cyd Grimes, Travis County Purchasing Agent, and shall be marked "Sealed Bid North Ridge Acres Waterline Improvements (IFB No. B080087-JW)." If the bid is to be mailed, the mailing address is as follows: Travis County Purchasing Agent, 314 West 11th Street, Suite 400, Austin, Texas 78701. An original bid and two copies of the bid shall be submitted. Each bid shall be accompanied by a bid bond or a certified or cashier's check, payable to "Travis County," in an amount equal to five (5%) percent of the total bid. The Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids, if there is a sound documented reason.

As required by Texas Government Code Sections 2253.001, et seq., a Payment Bond is required in the amount of the Contract if the Contract exceeds $25,000.00, and a Performance Bond is required in the amount of the Contract if the Contract exceeds $100,000.00, for contracts for construction, alteration or repair of any public building or the prosecution or completion of any public work.

Attention is directed to the INSTRUCTION TO BIDDERS to insure compliance with the requirements of Texas Government Code Sections 2258.001, et seq. (Prevailing Wage Rates) and Texas Government Code Sections 605.001, et seq. (Hours of Labor) and applicable federal regulations.

Plans, specifications and detailed bid forms are available at the office of the Travis County Purchasing Agent, Travis County Administration Building, 314 West 11th Street, 4th Floor, Room 400.

Bidders may obtain a complete set of the bidding documents after posting a Fifty dollar ($50.00) deposit in the form of a cashier's check, money order or company check payable to "Travis County". This deposit will be refundable to Bidders who return all bidding documents in USABLE CONDITION within twenty-one days after bid opening.

All bids must comply with specifications regarding pricing. Bidders should provide bid item amounts totaling to a total Contract price.

An optional pre-bid conference will be held for this project on December 27, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. at the Travis County Administration Building, 314 West 11th Street, 4th Floor, Suite 400, Austin, Texas 78701.

Final payment of the above construction will be paid for by check upon completion and acceptance of the work by the TNR Executive Manager.

CYD GRIMES

TRAVIS COUNTY PURCHASING AGENT

CONTRACTOR'S NOTICE OF CONSTRUCTION Notice is hereby given that sealed bids for the construction of Gilleland Creek trail, Phase II - **(IFB No. B080026-LP), which is a 12 foot wide concrete trail with drainage structures and signage approximately 7,300 feet in length from Immanual Road eastward to SH 130, in Precinct 2** in Travis County, will be received by the Travis County Purchasing Agent, at the **Travis County Administration Building, 314 West 11th Street, 4th Floor, Suite 400, until 2:00 p.m., Wednesday January 16, 2008,** then publicly opened and read in the Travis County Administration Building, 314 West 11th Street, 4th Floor Conference Room, Suite 400, Austin, Texas. The "Date-Time" stamp clock located at the front counter of the Travis County Purchasing Office will serve as the Official Clock for the purpose of verifying the time of receipt of bids.

All bids shall be addressed to Cyd Grimes, Travis County Purchasing Agent, and shall be marked "Sealed Bid Gilleland Creek trail, Phase II (IFB No. B080026-LP)." If the bid is to be mailed, the mailing address is as follows: Travis County Purchasing Agent, 314 West 11th Street, Suite 400, Austin, Texas 78701. An original bid and two copies of the bid shall be submitted. Each bid shall be accompanied by a bid bond or a certified or cashier's check, payable to "Travis County," in an amount not less than five (5%) percent of the total bid. The Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids, subject to FHWA concurrence.

As required by Texas Government Code Sections 2253.001, et seq., a Payment Bond is required in the amount of the Contract if the Contract exceeds $25,000.00, and a Performance Bond is required in the amount of the Contract if the Contract exceeds $100,000.00, for contracts for construction, alteration or repair of any public building or the prosecution or completion of any public work.

Attention is directed to the INSTRUCTION TO BIDDERS to insure compliance with the requirements of Texas Government Code Sections 2258.001, et seq. (Prevailing Wage Rates) and Texas Government Code Sections 605.001, et seq. (Hours of Labor) and applicable federal regulations.

Plans, specifications and detailed bid forms are available at the office of the Travis County Purchasing Agent, Travis County Administration Building, 314 West 11th Street, 4th Floor, Room 400.Bidders may obtain a complete set of the bidding documents after posting a _Fifty_ dollar ($50.00) deposit in the form of a cashier's check, money order or company check payable to "Travis County". This deposit will be refundable to Bidders who return all bidding documents in USABLE CONDITION within twenty-one days after Bid Opening.

All bids must comply with specifications regarding pricing. Bidders should provide bid item amounts totaling to a total Contract price.

An optional pre-bid conference will be held for this project on Thursday, January 3, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. at the Travis County Administration Building, 314 West 11th Street, 4th Floor, Suite 400, Austin, Texas 78701. Final payment of the above construction will be paid for by check upon completion and acceptance of the work by the TNR Executive Manager, subject to the concurrence of the Texas Department of Transportation.

CYD GRIMES

TRAVIS COUNTY PURCHASING AGENT

NO. 87634 ESTATE OF LIZZIE STORK WENZEL, DECEASED

IN PROBATE COURT

NUMBER ONE OF

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF LIZZIE STORK WENZEL Pursuant to Texas Probate Code 294, notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of LIZZIE STORK WENZEL were issued on the 11th day of December, 2007, in Cause No. 87634 pending in the Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas, to: Delaris Marie Barclay and Amos Jimmie Wenzel

Claims to be presented should be addressed to Independent Co-Executors, Estate of LIZZIE STORK WENZEL at: 105 East 2nd Street, P.O. Box 690, Elgin, Texas 78621

All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Delaris Marie Barclay

Amos Jimmie Wenzel

By: /s/ Elizabeth Owen,

Attorney

State Bar # 00794411

OWEN, BOGART ROGERS & NISIMBLAT

105 East 2nd Street

P.O. Box 690

Elgin, Texas 78621

Phone: (512) 281-3326

NOTICE Schroeder Construction Company, Ltd. is soliciting bids from MBE/WBE Subcontractors for the following City of Austin Project: Jimmy clay Booster Pump By-Pass Line, CIP ID 5267.017 PWC 0142, bidding January 10, 2008 at 10:00 AM. Areas of specialty include: Erosion Control, Traffic Control & Signs, Hauling, Surveying, Concrete, Photography & Pipe Suppliers, Call Susan 512 219-6001 or fax your quote to 512 219-7977.

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES Pursuant to Texas Abandoned Motor Vehicle(s), the following vehicles will be sold at Public Auction if not claimed within 30 days.

Garagekeeper:

A&A WRECKER AND RECOVERY, LLC

2963 MANOR ROAD

AUSTIN,TX 78722

(512)670-7578

1. 1994 Dodge Intrepid wht

LP# 10VT694 La

VIN# 1B3ED46TSRF211399

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES PURSUANT OF TEXAS ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE ACT, THE FOLLOWING WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC SALE UNLESS CHARGES ARE SATISFIED WITHIN 10 DAYS.

GARAGE KEEPER: SOUTHSIDE WRECKER, 8200 S CONGRESS, AUSTIN, TX.

UTILITY TRAILER NO LP NO VIN

1990 CHEVY
2G1WL54R1L1166407

1984 DODGE
1B7GD14T7ES249615

1992 FORD F150
2FTDF15H0NCA69002

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES PURSUANT OF TEXAS ABANDONED MOTOR ACT, THE FOLLOWING VEHICLE WILL BE AUCTIONED OFF BY THE TRAVIS COUNTY SHERIFFS OFFICE UNLESS CHARGES ARE SATISFIED.

GARAGEKEEPER:

TIGER TRUX TOWING

407 FM 685

PFLUGERVILLE, TX 78660

512-989-9595

VEHICLE: 1999 WHITE DODGE NEON

PICKED UP AT: 355@ GRAND AVE

VIN: 1P3ES47COXD108502

PLATE: NO PLATE

NOTICE OF NEW TRAFFIC REGULATION Notice is hereby given that Travis County, Texas, proposes the approval of the following traffic regulation:

SET MAXIMUM PRIMA FACIE SPEED LIMIT ON LINDEN ROAD IN PRECINCT FOUR.

Any resident of Travis County, Texas, aggrieved by this proposed action may make written request for a mandatory public hearing.

Such request must be addressed to the Transportation and Natural Resources Department, Travis County, Texas, P.O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas, 78767, and must be received within seven (7) days of this notice.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, there being due and unpaid charges for which the undersigned is entitled to satisfy an owner's lien of the goods hereinafter described and stored at Stor Self Storage location listed below; And due notice having been given, to the owner of said property and all parties known to claim an interest therein, and the time specified in such notice for payment of such having expired, the goods will be sold at public auction at the following addresses to the highest bidder or otherwise disposed of on the following dates. No one under 16 allowed. Cash only. Auction will take place **January 08, 2008 10:30am at Stor Self Storage 2508 W. Pecan St. Pflugerville, TX 78660 512-990-1000.** Unit # 472 Felton McBride, rubber storage tubs (10), luggage, clothes, shoe boxes (15), tricycle, and dishes.

the COMMON LAW

by **Luke Ellis**

The material in this column is for informational purposes only. It does not constitute, nor is it a substitute for, legal advice. For advice on your specific facts and circumstances, consult a licensed attorney.

RIPPED OFF DURING HOLIDAY SHOPPING

I was ripped off on a Christmas present I bought by a shady store that has refused to refund my money or exchange the item. What can I do to stop the store from doing this to others?

Consumers are prime targets during the holiday season. Many times frustrated consumers simply walk away from legitimate problems and take no action. The fact that you are willing to pursue the situation is positive, as there are steps that you can take which may help prevent similar problems between this store and other Central Texans in the future.

The starting point for any consumer dispute is to fully discuss your problem with the store's customer-service representative or manager. If you can't resolve the problem at this level, you may want to contact the store's headquarters or the owner.

Assuming the problem has not resolved, you have several options. You can pursue your individual case by filing a lawsuit. Small-claims court (limited to a recover of no more than $5,000) is usually the best option for consumers, because you can represent yourself. However, the personal time, energy, effort, and money needed to pursue a small-claims court matter may not make sense for an inexpensive purchase.

The consumer should consider filing a complaint with the Texas Attorney General's Consumer Protection & Public Health division (**www.oag.state.tx.us/consumer/consumer.shtml**). Filing a complaint with the Attorney General's Office will not help your specific case (Texas law prohibits the AG's Office from filing a lawsuit with the purpose of recovering money for a single person), but it could lead to an investigation or lawsuit against the company, if it is violating laws protecting consumers.

Finally, you can file a separate complaint with the Better Business Bureau of Central and South Central Texas (**www.centraltx.bbb.org**). By doing so, you will put other savvy consumers on notice that the store has a history of complaints and problems.

You may also be able to obtain relief if you purchased the item with a credit card (search **austinchronicle.com** for previous "Common Law" columns on that topic). The most important thing as a consumer is to stay vigilant – protect yourself and other consumers by pursing violations of consumer laws and poor business practices.

Please submit column suggestions, questions, and comments to **thecommonlaw@austinchronicle.com**. Submission of potential topics does not create an attorney-client relationship, and any information submitted is subject to being included in future columns.

AV0103 POUND SALE

NOTICE OF SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES IMPOUNDED BY ORDER OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 683.011 ET SEQ., TEXAS TRANSPORTATION CODE, REGULATING THE IMPOUNDING AND SALE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES BY DELEGATE OR PERSONALLY.

THE PURCHASER SHALL TAKE TITLE TO THE MOTOR VEHICLE FREE AND CLEAR OF ALL LIENS AND CLAIMS OF OWNERSHIP AND IS ENTITLED TO REGISTER THE PURCHASED MOTOR VEHICLE AND RECIEVE A CERTIFICATE OF TITLE.

I WILL PROCEED TO SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH IN THE CITY OF AUSTIN, TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS, THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED MOTOR VEHICLES WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN REDEEMED BY THE OWNERS, THEREOF TO WIT;

JANUARY 3, 2008 @ 10:00 AM

@ AUSTIN POLICE DEPT.,

4308 TERRY-O LANE, AUSTIN, TX 78745

073270770	1995	FORD	2DR	543ZVH	TX	1ZVLT20A0S5130680
073291182	1989	VOLV	4DR	G58TWV	TX	YV1FX8844K1383556
073311036	1992	OLDS	4DR	H83WLV	TX	1G3WH54T6ND320721
073370017	1992	MAZD	4DR	701PPY	TX	1YVGD22B6N5221832
073400682	1980	CHEV	LL	3SJM45	TX	CCL16AF127123
075059652	1999	PLYM	4DR	D69SLX	TX	3P3ES47C6XT530090
075063228	1997	DODG	4DR	YYP82X	TX	1B3ES47C8VD293333
075063229	1999	MERC	4DR	700HYP	TX	1MEFM6532XK638624
075063237	1997	DODG	4DR	YNC78F	TX	2B3HD46F2VH754662
075063239	1993	KAWK	MC	03771H	FL	JKAENVA12PA046617
075064025	1990	BUIC	4DR	886BXX	TX	1G4CW54C8L1621784
075064029	1999	MERC	4DR	006XXR	TX	2MEFM74WXXX627238
075064031	1990	INFI	4DR	Y18RVH	TX	JNKNG01C7LM002656
075064034	1984	PONT	4DR	738KRG	TX	2G2AS69H1E2285960
075064035	1986	FORD	PK	M1W426	TX	2FTJW3612GCB06019
075064660	2000	HMDE	UT	37WVHR	TX	**********
075064662	1996	BUIC	4DR	X88NCF	TX	1G4NJ52M8TC420958
075064664	1988	DODG	VN	660GJM	TX	1B4FK5036JX263417
075064666	1995	NISS	4DR	678HPX	TX	JN1CA21D2ST648046
075064669	1977	TOYT	PK	8FNZ72	TX	RN28057429
075064670	1992	LINC	4DR	KGJ16H	TX	1LNLM81W4NY680377
075064672	1987	FORD	PK	5XGH25	TX	1FTCR14T0HPA20457
075064673	1988	ISUZ	LL	B72GSR	TX	JAACH18E4J7810551
075064675	1991	MAZD	4DR	G635BB	TX	JM1BG2269M0300675
075065222	1995	GMC	PK	7PWK26	TX	1GTHK33N8SF003539
075065225	1990	OLDS	4DR	428WGF	TX	1G3AJ54R0L6324591
075065237	1988	SUBA	SW	048HDK	TX	JF1AN4422JC452076
075065242	1999	CHRY	2DR	094FMH	TX	3C3EL55H5XT560560
075065243	1993	NISS	4DR	566YJH	TX	1N4BU31F4PC126006
075065505	1995	PONT	2DR	N16FXV	TX	1G2WJ12M5SF226181
075065624	1989	EGIL	4DR	S82KPT	TX	JE3CU36XXKU113399
075065625	1991	FORD	2DR	F23ZFW	TX	1FAPP1282MW207601
075065634	1999	PONT	4DR	J92DLL	TX	1G2NE52T5XC508599
075065645	1995	HOND	2DR	X82KNJ	TX	1HGCD7266SA045096
075065648	1992	MERC	4DR	J63LFV	TX	1MEPM36X1NK617295
075065649	1997	PONT	4DR	506NGB	TX	1G2NE52T6VC817043
075065914	1987	GMC	LL	L09WZN	TX	1GKCS18R3H8512286
0750644448	1991	MITS	4DR	F53XHP	TX	JA3CU26A6MU021851

Car TALK

by Tom and Ray Magliozzi

TOM AND RAY SETTLE A FATHER-SON SQUABBLE

Dear Tom and Ray:

My car-knowledge-challenged son lives in North Conway, N.H. His job is about 300 yards from his apartment. Instead of walking, he starts his car every day and drives the three minutes to work. I told him that this is bad for his new Subaru Impreza. He was not impressed. He insists that it is better to start the car every day than to let it sit in the cold weather. Please help me educate this ingrate who does not appreciate his father's vast knowledge. – Barney

TOM: I feel your pain, Barney. Sure, it's not good for a car to drive 300 yards a day, or even 600 yards, if you count the round trip. When you do that, several things happen.

RAY: First, the car runs inefficiently until it's fully warmed up. When it's warming up, extra gasoline is being sent into the cylinders. But not all of that gas gets combusted. So some of it sneaks down past the rings and dilutes the oil.

TOM: Gasoline is not as good a lubricant as oil. Trust me. I've tried it in my brother's car.

RAY: The other problem is that the exhaust is full of moisture. Actually, it's always full of moisture. But it's only when the exhaust system reaches its full operating temperature that the system can evaporate that moisture and expel it. When you drive just 300 yards, the moisture just sits there and leads to premature rusting of the muffler and the exhaust pipes.

TOM: While he can help the engine a little bit by driving it more extensively on weekends and getting everything up to full operating temperature to expel the moisture and gasoline from the crankcase, he can't reverse the damage he'll be doing all week. So there's no question that the car won't last as long, and will cost him more to maintain, if he drives it very short distances every day. And conversely, there's absolutely no harm in letting it sit during the week.

RAY: Of course, cars exist for our pleasure and convenience. And if he wants to use the car that way and wants to spend the money on more-frequent oil changes and exhaust systems, that's his prerogative, isn't it, Barney? It certainly keeps us in business.

TOM: But if he is concerned about the cost and the longevity of the car, then you're absolutely right, Barney. He should walk. Plus, it's healthier. Remind him it's better for *his* crankcase and exhaust system, too!

* * *

Tom and Ray offer a strategy for everyone who's shopping for a car. Find yours in their pamphlet "Should I Buy, Lease, or Steal My Next Car?" Send $4.75 (check or money order) to Next Car, PO Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

* * *

Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in care of this newspaper, or e-mail them by visiting the *Car Talk* website at **www.cartalk.com**.

Tune in to *Car Talk* each Saturday at 9am on

kut 90.5 AUSTIN TEXAS

©2004 by Tom & Ray Magliozzi and Doug Berman
Distributed by King Features Syndicate

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Under the provisions of Chapter 59 of the Texas Property code, (Chapter 576 Acts of the 68th Legislature Regular Session 1983)

U-Store-It, will hold a public sale of delinquent units in order to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale will be conducted on site on **January 7, 2008** beginning with the 10025 Manchaca Rd. Austin Texas 78748 site at 9:30 am to the highest bidder for **CASH.** All units contain household items unless otherwise mentioned. Units and locations are listed below:

U-Store-It # 753

10025 Manchaca Rd

Austin, Tx 78748

512-292-1760

Rachel Blocker - Box Spring, Mattress, Boxes, TV, Stereo.

Carolyn Rodriguez - Bed Frame, Fishing poles, Refrigerator, Tackle Box, Toys, Tools, Generator, Air Compressor.

U-Store-It # 748

12006 RR 620 N

Austin, Tx. 78745

512-336-5333

Sarah Ray - Sofa.

Schannen Pearson - Mattress, Stereo, Love Seat, Chair, Futon, Book Shelves, Rug, Dolly, Tables.

Elizabeth Kristin - Bike, Ab Lounge Exercise Machine.

U-Store-It # 751

610 E. Stassney Lane

Austin, TX 78745

512-441-8300

Gary Hunnicutt - Bags, Boxes, Clothing, TV, Ice Chest, Artificial Plants.

Rachel Blocker - Bags, Mattress, Boxes, Chair, Clothing, TV, Vacuum, Freezer, Futon, Artificial Plants, Luggage.

Clarence Jackson - Boxes, Washer, Dryer, Weights, Weight Bench, Cabinet, Stereo, Speakers, VCR, Ladder, Bookcase, Bags, Fan.

Felipe Munoz - Bicycles, Boxes, Toys, Totes, Chest, Luggage, Lawn Santa.

Gretchen Johnson - Bed, Boxes, File Cabinet, Dresser, TVs, Vacuum, Trophies, Christmas Decorations, Pots, Pans, VCR.

Patricia Martinez - Mattress, Boxes, Chair, Desk, Dresser, Sofa, Entertainment Center, Big Screen TVs, Baby Items, Totes.

Sergio Guerrero - Books, Chair, Dresser, Mirror, Pictures, Appliances, Totes, Cabinet.

Mark Gonzales - Chairs, Lamps, Refrigerator, Shelf, Sofas, Computer Equipments, Futon.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

PS Orangeco, Inc., and Shurgard TRS, Inc., hereby gives notice that the property generally described below is being sold to satisfy a Landlord's Lien pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, at the time and place indicated below, and on the following terms: All property generally described below will be sold at public sale to the highest bidder for cash, or credit cards, **NO CHECKS,** with payment to be made at the time of the sale. Seller reserves the right to refuse any bid and to withdraw any item or items from the sale. The property will be sold on the **9th of JANUARY 2008** on or about the time indicated at each self-storage facility identified: NO CHILDREN PLEASE.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9th 2008.

9:00 a.m. Public Storage (formerly known as Shurgard) @9814 Westgate Blvd, Austin, TX 78748

0016 JOEL REYES, TV, WASHER, DRYER

0042 SHARON SHAFER, TV, BED, CHAIR

0122 CRAIG BOUTWELL, TOOL BOX, STEREO, TV

0222 CHRIS WILSON, WASHER, DRYER, COUCH

0245 PETE MORENO, DRESSER, LAWN EQUIPMENT, TABLE

0299 LANCE TAYLOR, LADDER, COUCH, CHAIR

0325 VARUN BHATNAGAR, TABLE, DRESSER, BED

0370 DAVID MARFIN, STEREO, WASHER, DRYER

0458 CHERYL HOLMES, TV, LAWNMOWER, BOXES

0487 DAN IRONS, CHAIR, BOXES, TRUNK

0515 DAN IRONS, BOXES, CHAIR, DOG KENNEL

9:30a.m. Public Storage @ 7200 S 1st Street., Austin, TX 78745

B028 MARK RANDECKER, TOOL BOX, LADDER, TV

C061 SHARLENE ERVIN, TV, HAND DOLLY, DRESSER

C088 STEPHANIE RIOS, BOXES, CHAIR, MONITOR

D103 ADRIAN PEREZ, COUCH, LOVE SEAT, CHAIR

F193 ONTERIA RHODEN, TV, LOVE SEAT, ENTERTAINMENT CTR

I241 SANDRA BELL, DRESSER, DESK, LOVE SEAT

L334 GRACIELA GARCIA, HAND DOLLY, DRESSER, BICYCLE

N437 PATRICIA DAVIS, TV, SHELVES, BOXES

Q507 STEPHANIE RIOS, TRUNK, BOXES, BAGS

R524 CASSANDRA BRADFORD, BOXES, BAGS

S557 GUS GALVAN, DOORS, WINDOWS

T602 RICHARD KOVAR, SPEAKERS, STEREO, TOOL BOX

U615 STEVE BECK, SPEAKERS, BOXES, TOTES

U640 OLEGORIO OCHEO, YARD TOOLS, HAND DOLLY, FAN

V719 RACHEL CASTRO, CHEST, DRESSER, DRYER

V730 BRAIN TEWS, TOOL BOX, DRESSER, DESK

V743 IOLE BARBOSA, DRESSER, BOXES, PICTURES

W819 CYNTHIA KERR, TRUNK, WASHER, DRYER

W785 ROBERT SMITH JR, BAGS, TOTES, SUITCASE

10:15 a.m. Public Storage @ 7112 S Congress, Austin, TX 78745

D10 DIONNE POWE, TV, COUCH, CHAIR

D16 RICHARD ANTHONY LEAL, HAND DOLLY, TOOL BOX, BOXES

D32 DONALD BELTZ, STEREO, CHAIR, BOXES

E33 ROXANNE GARCIA, TV, WASHER, DRYER

F30 CARLOS RIVAS, TV, ENTERTAINMENT CTR, COUCH

F37 SCOTT TUCKER, TV, COUCH, LOVE SEAT

G2 IVAN MCCOY, DRESSER, CHAIR, BOXES

J76 ALBERT GARCIA, TV, HAND DOLLY, BOXES

J62 FRANCIS COONS JR, TOOL BOX, SHELVING, BOXES

K19 GIL SALDIVAR, POWER TOOLS, SHELVING, DRYER

K68 EVELYN O'CONNOR, TRUNK, CURIO CABINET, DRESSER

L15 DAVID JOHNSON, TOOLS, FILING CABINET

L24 ANGIE BARRIENTOS, TOTES, FILING CABINET, BOXES

L9 EARNEST HARPER, COUCH, TIRE RIMS, BOXES

11:00 a.m. Public Storage @ 4202 Santiago, Austin, TX 78745

126 MICHAEL MORRIS, DOORS, LIGHTS, FAN

204 SANDRA MOLINA, TABLE, BOXES, BED

561 HILDA RODRIGUEZ, TABLE, BOXES, TRUNK

620 OLIVIA DOMINGUEZ, TOOL BOX, TABLE, LADDER

669 KRISI MARTINEZ, CHAIR, BOXES, TOTES

697 PATRICIA OWENS, TV, DRESSER, COUCH

712 DON RHOADES, TABLE, BOXES, TV

739 CONNIE NOEL, WASHER, DRYER, BOXES

11:30 a.m. Public Storage @ 2301 E Ben White, Austin, TX 78741

2042 KENYON WILLIAMS, HAND DOLLY, BOXES

2144 BILL ALLEN, BOXES, FAN, SUITCASE

2182 BLAKE TAYLOR, DRESSER, BOXES, MIRROR

3079 ROGER CARDENAS, BBQ, DESK, BED

12:00 p.m. Public Storage @ 5016 E Ben White, Austin, TX 78741

C092 ADRIAN VILLEGAS, TOYS, BOXES

C172 KHARI BROWN, BICYCLE, BOXES, TOTES

C189 SALLY MALONE, DRYER, BOXES, FISHING EQUIPMENT

C299 OLIVIA CARDONA, MATTRESS, BOX SPRING

C301 JESSICA LOPEZ, STEREO, TRUNK, BOXES

E021 RUBEN CASTILLO, COMPRESSOR, POWER WASHER, LADDER

12:30 p.m. Public Storage (formerly known as Shurgard) @ 2121 S IH 35, Austin, TX 78741

1006 SUSIE GARZA, TV, STEREO, SPEAKERS

1008 SHAWN LLOYD, BAGS, BOXES, FISH TANK

4090 JESSE RIVERA, TV, CHAIR, BOXES

4110 DIANNA PEREZ, DRESSER, MICROWAVE, BOXES

4146 ARTHUR REDMON, BOXES, TOTES, CDS

1:00 p.m. Public Storage (formerly known as Shurgard) @ 5220 US 290 WEST, Austin, TX 78735

1248 TRACY PEARSON, HAND DOLLY, DRESSER, WASHER

2104 SALLY CROSSON, BOXES, BAGS, PICTURES

3248 HARPER FERGUSON, DRESSER, TRUNK, ENTERTAINMENT CTR

1:30 p.m. Public Storage (formerly known as Shurgard) @ 6726 BEE CAVE RD, Austin, TX 78746

4108 TEEJAY WALSH, COUCH, TABLE, BOXES

6004 VIRGINIA KELLER, BOXES

7161 RANIER FINANCIAL, BED, BOXES, TOTES

2:00 p.m. Public Storage @ 1213 W 6th Street, Austin, TX 78703

1090 DAVID PRATHER, BED, BOXES, TABLE

3016 SCOT HALLMAN, CLOTHING, TOTES, FILING CABINET

3050 KWOME DECUIR(CORNERSTONE PRODUCTIONS), BOXES, TRUNK, SUITCASE

3051 DAVID PRATHER, SHELVING

3061 LAW OFFICE OF KEVIN BOYD, DESK, COMPUTER, CHAIR

4023 DAVID LATIMER, BOXES, CHAIR, BAGS

5089 JULIE WALKER, HAND TRUCKS, FURNITURE PADS, PACKING SUPPLIES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Delinquent Tenants PS Orangeco, Inc., and Shurgard TRS, Inc., hereby gives notice that the property generally described below is being sold to satisfy a Landlord's Lien pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, at the time and place indicated below, and on the following terms: All property generally described below will be sold at public sale to the highest bidder for cash, or credit cards, **NO CHECKS,** with payment to be made at the time of the sale. Seller reserves the right to refuse any bid and to withdraw any item or items from the sale. The property will be sold on the **8TH January 2008** on or after the time indicated at each self-storage facility identified:

NO CHILDREN OR PETS PLEASE.

Tuesday January 8th 2008

9:00 .am. Public Storage @ 1033 E 41st Street, Austin, TX 78751

1073 NONA PRICE, TV, BED, TABLE

1079 OLIVIA WASHINGTON, CHAIR, BOXES, TOTES

1082 MARIA FERGUSON, COUCH, CHAIR, BED

2029 KIRBY PEARCE, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT

2035 BERRI MCBRIDE, BED, CHAIR, BOXES

2052 NAILAH SANKOFA, WORK BENCH, LAWN EQUIPMENT, BOXES

3002 LINDSEY WESTERGREN, WASHER, DRYER, COUCH

3007 PHILLIP ELLISON, ARMOIR, COUCH, CHAIR

3013 RONALD KOLMAN, BOXES

3021 KORRY LEMON, SPEAKERS, BOXES, TABLE

3069 TENESHA WHITE, WASHER, TABLE, CHAIR

4039 MERCURY BOLDEN, DUFFLE BAG, MICROWAVE, FISH TANK

4085 KATHY URDY, TABLE, TRUNK, DESK

4127 SANDY MCMANNIS, BOXES, LAMP, TOTES

4159 JAROD STAINAKER, TV, STEREO, DRESSER

4186 PEGGY WOOLEY, BOXES, TOTES, CLOTHING

5085 LISA WALKER, TV, STEREO, DRESSER

5105 ROBERT HENSLEY KYLE, COUCH, DESK BOXES

5185 TRACIE LAYMON, CHAIR, BOXES

9:30am Public Storage @ 10001 Nth IH-35, Austin, TX 78753

7035 John Bonner

2034 David Jones

8072 Krystal

10:00am Public Storage @ 10100 Nth IH-35, Austin, TX 78753

H006 Harold & Latonya Byrd, stove, washer, table

G001 Harold Byrd, drum set, amplifier, cabinet

D086 Shirley Guy, bags, boxes

B119 Jeremy Woods, dresser, table, boxes

B060 Alfred Boedeker, table, exercise equipment,

A024 Joe Saldana, Couch, Lawn Equipment

B095 Fallon Beraud, TV, boxes

B052 Gil Cabellaro Jr All items in unit

10:30am Public Storage @ 937 Reinli, Austin, TX., 78751

227 Margaret Niesen

924 Cedric Mantu

307 Shana Griggs

232 A.J. Hernandez

311 Albert Sanchez

480 Brannen Temple

617 Craig E James

183 Renee Williams

452 Latoya Walker

383 Felicita Mendoza

414 Carlynn Ball

11:00amPublic Storage @ 8101 Nth Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX 78753

N1271 Reggie Hicks

N2257 Michal Privett

N3512 Merrill Frank

N1285 Mailing Williams-Davis

127 Tinisia Green

3211 Krisitn Werner

226 Jerome Buck

3189 Tammie Sullivan

3068 Gerado Contreras

1415 Yonis Holliday

2069 Cindy Lucas

1326 Ana Mayorga

N1266 Ruth Hodges

1404 Manuel Perez

555 Bernice Wyatt

3093 Joe Mendiola

3183 Eugene Isom

2112 Monica Lay

11:30am Public Storage @ 8525 N Lamar Blvd., Austin , TX 78753

A062 Carolyn Turner-Francis

B033 Terry Cardenas

A052 Gina Mendez

B054 Pearla Cardiel

G037 Naomi Puapuaga

G013 Lyn Weldon

H016 Khalilah Harrison

B006 Belinda Brown

A063 Jacob Borrero

G032 Lorenzo Sandoval

D038 Abraham Ramirez

J023 Maria Vences

12:00pm Public Storage @ 8128 Nth Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX 78753

D032 Lamont Fisher, drums, weight bench, Couch

D013 Josh Walker, washer, desk, couch

E042 Adolphus Kimbrough, chair, headboard

D005 Mary Johnson, BBQ Smoker, desk, computer

12:30pm Public Storage @ 9205 Research Blvd., Austin, TX 78758

A229 David Cargill

B037 Joel Thompson

E136 Nicholas Connolly

A051 Michael Usher

C095 Charlotte Freeman

A227 Tamika Brown

1:00pm Public Storage @ 10931 Research Blvd., Austin, TX 78759

E003 Nathan's Boxwell, Lamps, totes, boxes

D044 Beth Marsh , TV, Exercise equipment

B023 Erica Adams, Weight Bench, Lamps

B031 Christopher Smith, all items in unit

C013 Wanda Harrell, all items in unit

E004 Valerie Blanton, all items in unit

1:30pm Public Storage @ 12318 N MOPAC EXPRESSWAY, AUSTIN TX 78758

D581 Peter E Ferraro

A034 Elyzabeth Casey

D507 Brandon Barnett

2:00pmPublic Storage @ 12915 Research Blvd., Austin, TX 78750

C003 Kellie Pollock all items in unit

4024 Johnny Tumilson all items un unit

D041 Cheryl Lovely, all items in unit

D026 Katriena Davis, all items in unit

5030 Katriena Davis, all items in unit

3064 Chance Overstreet, all items in unit

4028 Danielle Smith, all items in unit

2:30pm Public Storage @ 13675 N US HWY 183 Austin, TX 78750

700 Mark August, desk, ladder, table

704 Micheal Mullins, all items in unit

3:00pm Public Storage @ 1517 Round Rock Ave., Round Rock, TX 78681

8185 Amy Lewis, toolbox, ladder, book case

8137 Markisha Evans, all items In unit

4121 Austin Rehab Clinic,

Medical equipment, tables, desk,

3120 Mitchell & Mitchell Ent, INC. all items in unit

3112 Sherritha Fisher, couch, exercise equipment, suitcase

2102 Robyn Mcgregor, toys, chest, luggage

4139 Austin Rehab Clinic, exercise equipment, table

5146 Michaela Kelley, Computer, desk,

8185 Tammy Lewis, Tool Box, Ladder, chair

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF JERRY ROY LEE, DECEASED Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Jerry Roy Lee were issued to Linda Jean Lee Henshaw, on December 13, 2007, in Cause No. 87,784, now pending in Probate County Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas, Sitting in Matters Probate.

The residence of the Independent Executor is 301 Quelqueshue Street, Sulphur, Calcasieu Parrish County, Louisiana 70663. All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED December 13, 2007.

WALKER ARENSON, Attorney for Linda Jean Lee Henshaw

512.327.4422

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST

THE ESTATE OF LARRY W. LANGLEY, DECEASED Notice is hereby given that in Cause No. 87728, styled Estate of Larry W. Langley, Deceased, pending in the Probate County Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, original letters testamentary were issued on December 6, 2007, to Sydney T. Langley.

Claims may be presented and addressed to the personal representative of the estate in care of her attorneys at the following address:

c/o Graves, Dougherty,

Hearon & Moody

A Professional Corporation

Attn: Kevin Holcomb

P.O. Box 98

401 Congress, Suite 2200

Austin, Texas 78767-0098

All persons having claims against this estate are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED the 12th day of December, 2007.

GRAVES, DOUGHERTY, HEARON & MOODY

A Professional Corporation

By: /s/ Kevin Holcomb

State Bar ID No.: 09824000

ATTORNEYS FOR INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST

THE ESTATE OF MAURINE R. HARDWICKE, DECEASED Notice is hereby given that in Cause No. 87681, styled Estate of Maurine R. Hardwicke, Deceased, (the "Estate") pending in the County Court of Travis County, Texas, original letters testamentary were issued on December 11, 2007, to Ann Hardwicke Moody and Mary Hardwicke Townsend, independent co-executors.

Claims may be presented and addressed to the independent co-executors of the Estate in care of Patricia A. Campbell at the following address:

c/o Graves, Dougherty,

Hearon & Moody

A Professional Corporation

Attn: Patricia A. Campbell

Post Office Box 98

Austin, Texas 78767

All persons having claims against the Estate are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED the 12th day of December, 2007.

GRAVES, DOUGHERTY, HEARON & MOODY

A Professional Corporation

By: /s/ Patricia A. Campbell

State Bar No. 03714100

(512) 480-5625

(512) 480-5825 (fax)

ATTORNEYS FOR INDEPENDENT CO-EXECUTORS

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF SALLY ROSS KILGORE Notice is hereby given that in Cause No. 87,743, styled Estate of Sally Ross Kilgore, Deceased, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, original Letters Testamentary were issued on the 11th day of December, 2007, to ELMER

EUGENE KILGORE, who is a resident of Austin, Texas, LESLIE JEAN KILGORE, who is a resident of Menlo Park, California, and BRIAN DOUGLAS KILGORE, who is a resident of Palo Alto, California. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present same within the time prescribed by law, and before such estate is closed. Claims may be presented to said personal representatives at the address shown below and said personal representatives direct that any such claims be presented to the attorney for said representative.

ELMER EUGENE KILGORE, LESLIE JEAN KILGORE and BRIAN DOUGLAS KILGORE,

Independent Co-Executors

c/o John Calhoun Miller,

Attorney

1509 Old West 38th Street #3

Austin, Texas 78731-6328

NOTICE to All Persons Having Claims Against the Estate of Daniel Ross Courage, Deceased Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Daniel Ross Courage, Deceased, were issued on December 13, 2007, in Cause No. 87,732 in the Probate Court No. One, Travis County, Texas to Doris J. Courage.

The post office address for mailing of claims is:

Doris J. Courage, Executor

c/o Rash, Chapman, Schreiber & Porter, L.L.P.

2112 Rio Grande

Austin, TX 78705

512/477-7543 (PHONE)

512/474-0954 (FAX)

All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Dated this December 13, 2007.

By: Mark B. Schreiber

Attorney for the Estate

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Independent Administration with Will Annexed for the Estate of Jerry Stanley Odum, Deceased, were issued on September 11, 2007, in Cause No. 86352, pending in the Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas, to: Eva Adams Carter.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o Martin J. Cirkiel

Cirkiel & Associates, P.C.

1901 E. Palm Valley Blvd.

Round Rock, Texas 78664

DATED the 13th day of December, 2007.

/s/ Martin J. Cirkiel

Attorney for Eva Adams Carter

1901 E. Palm Valley Blvd.

Round Rock, Texas 78664

Telephone: (512) 244-6658

Facsimile: (512) 244-6014

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Eunice Parker Means, Deceased, were issued on December 11, 2007, in Cause No. 87627, pending in the Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas, to Concord Trust Company. The address to which claims may be presented is:

Estate of Eunice Parker Means, Deceased

c/o Randy K. Dixon, attorney

1601 Elm Street, Suite 1700

Dallas, Texas 75201-7241

All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED the 13th day of December, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy K. Dixon

State Bar No. 24007118

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary of the Estate of Robert Owen Crabtree, Sr., Deceased, were issued on November 6, 2007 in Cause No. 87437, pending in Travis County Probate Court Number One, Travis County, Texas to Robert Owen Crabtree, Jr., Independent Executor. All persons having claims against said Estate are required to present them to Richard Thormann, Attorney at Law, 805 West 10th Street, Suite 100, Austin, Texas 78701 within the time prescribed by law.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Jack K.

Ellison, Deceased, were issued on December 11, 2007, in Cause No. 87771, pending in the Probate Court No. 1

of Travis County, Texas, to Virginia P. Ellison of 7131 Valburn Drive, Austin, Texas 78731.

All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. All claims should be addressed in care of the Independent Executor's attorney, Derry W. Swanter, at Giordani Schurig Beckett & Tackett LLP, 100 Congress Avenue, 22nd Floor, Austin, Texas, 78701.

DATED this the 13th day of December, 2007.

GIORDANI, SCHURIG, BECKETT & TACKETT L.L.P.

By: /s/ Derry W. Swanger

ATTORNEYS FOR VIRGINIA P. ELLISON, INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR OF THE ESTATE OF JACK K. ELLISON, DECEASED

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of MINNIE THOMPSON, Deceased, were issued on December 11, 2007, in Cause No. 87710, pending in the Probate Court No. ONE, Travis County, Texas, to: SANDRA JEAN THOMPSON.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: BILL CLINE, JR.

Bill Cline Law Office, P.C.

P.O. Box 2502

120 JOE WIMBERLEY BLVD.

Wimberley, TX 78676

512-842-1260 Phone/Fax

DATED the 11st day of December, 2007.

/s/ BILL CLINE, JR.

Attorney for SANDRA JEAN THOMPSON

State Bar No.: 04397000

OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS
IFB NUMBER: B080072-RV

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids for Water Damage Remediation, Mold Damage Remediation and Decontamination Services **job order contract** located in Austin, Texas, will be received by Cyd Grimes, Travis County Purchasing Agent, at the **Travis County Purchasing Office, 314 West 11th Street, 4th Floor, Suite 400, Austin, TX 78701** until **2:00 P. M., CST, January 3 , 2008,** then publicly opened and read aloud. **Note: The Time-Date Stamp Clock located at the front counter of the Travis County Purchasing Office, will serve as the OFFICIAL CLOCK for the purpose of verifying the date and time of receipt of bids.**

A copy of the Project Manual may be obtained by visiting our web site: www.co.travis.tx.us/purchasing/solicitation.asp and downloading it, or by visiting the **TRAVIS COUNTY PURCHASING OFFICE.** A refundable deposit of **$25.00** in the form of a cashier's check, money order, or company check payable to "Travis County" will be required for each set of bid documents that is obtained directly from the Purchasing Office. **The deposit will be refunded if the drawings and specifications are returned in good condition within 21 calendar days of the bid opening.** Copies of plans and specifications may be viewed free of charge in the Travis County Purchasing Office. In addition, plans and specifications will be made available for viewing free of charge at various Austin-area Plan Rooms indicated in Exhibit 1.

A bid security in the amount of five percent (5%) of the total bid amount will be required. Payments will be made for completed work in progressive payments with the County retaining five percent (5%) of each payment until final acceptance of the project. Payments will be made by check. A Payment Bond is required in the amount of one-hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount, if the contract amount exceeds $25,000. A Performance Bond is required in the amount of one-hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount, if the contract amount exceeds $100,000. Bidder should use lump sum pricing.

Historically Underutilized Businesses including Contractors, Subcontractors, and Suppliers are encouraged to participate in this project consistent with the goals of the Commissioners Court. Contractors will be required to comply with all applicable Equal Employment Opportunity laws and regulations, all Federal, State, and local regulations for construction safety and health standards.

The successful bidder must commence work upon issuance by County of a written Notice to Proceed. The County reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informality in the bids received. Bids may not be withdrawn for ninety (90) calendar days after the date on which they are opened.

The term of this Construction Contract shall be for a twelve (12) month period commencing upon award by the Commissioners Court, with two (2) twelve (12) month options to renew, subject to approval of the Commissioners Court.

OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE TO BIDDERS
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be accepted by Travis County for the following items:

1.Transmission Repair Services, B080075-LD

Opens: January 7, 2008 @ 3:00 p.m.

Bids should be submitted to: Cyd Grimes, Travis County Purchasing Agent, Ned Granger Building, 314 West 11th, Room 400, P.O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas 78767. Specifications can be obtained from or viewed at the Travis County Purchasing Office at no charge or by downloading a copy from our website: www.co.travis.tx.us/purchasing/solicitation.asp. Bidders should use unit pricing or lump sum pricing, if appropriate. Payments may be made by check. The successful bidder shall be required to furnish a Performance Bond in the amount of One Hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount awarded, if applicable.

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE TO ANY PERSONS HAVING A CLAIM FOR A 14'x 80' MOBILE HOME ABANDONED AT 14000 BLOCK SOUTH I H 35 ON OR AROUND NOVEMBER 27, 2007.

The mobile home was impounded by the authority of the Austin Police Department under City Ordinance 9-1-7=Property Other Than a Motor Vehicle. The mobile home will be stored at the City Landfill located at 10108 F M 812 Road. If not redeemed, the mobile home will be demolished on JANUARY 27, 2008. For more information, contact the Austin Police Department, Vehicle Abatement Unit, P.O. Box 689001, Austin, TX 78768; 512/974-8119.

610 CARS

1997 HONDA CRV, New car trade-in, clean, drives like new. Full warranty. Can trade. $5950. www.autodepotaustin.com

2001 HONDA Insight, 5-speed, 81k, gas/electric, warranty, $8250. www.autodepotaustin.com

91 MAZDA PROTEGE 5 speed with newly rebuilt motor, clutch. Minor cosmetic flaws, but runs like a rocket with cold AC. $1850. autodepotaustin.com

AUTOMOBILES
CENTRALTXAUTOS.COM
Find your next car here

CADILLAC CATERA 1997
Well Maintained 1997 Cadillac Catera! $4500. Low miles-85,000. Leather interior! Power everything! Bose stereo system! Aluminum wheels. Recent tires V6 engine. New battery! Excellent condition inside & out! Call 293-4313.

CHEVROLET CAMARO 1969
1969 Chevrolet Camaro SS Price 5000 USD, 350 Engine and Transmission, Ext Blue/Int Black, Automatic, Clear Title, pictures/details contact: kevinanderson@live.com/(651) 222 9603

BUY AUTO Don't lose money before you trade in or sell. We buy; Cars, Trucks, & SUVs (used or not running). Call 512-442-4444

topdollarspaid.com

TOYOTA TERCEL 1995 Very reliable, automatic, AC/Heater, AM/FM & CD player work. WILL NEGOTIATE $ Call 512-297-9417 if interested

615 TRUCKS

AUTOS Wanted 1995 or newer cars, trucks, vans, or SUVs. Wrecked, running or not. Mike 796-4081

Four years in a row!!!!! Not just in the top ten, not somewhere in the top five, but simply voted ***THE BEST AUTO REPAIR SHOP IN AUSTIN!!!*** **Four years running!!! Thanks Austin!!!**

the auto depot

909 Prairie Trail
836-9767, Mon- Fri 8am-6pm
294-2885, evenings/weekends
www.autodepotaustin.com

CARS FOR SALE

1991 Mercedes 300SE, Recent complete overhaul with new timing chain, valve job. A classy classic that looks and drives excellently. Warranty, trade possible. $4950.

1992 Celica Convertible, In process of complete restoration. 127k. Full warranty, go with the top down and the tunes up. $4250.

1995 Accord, four-door LX, one owner, 92k, super clean. Full warranty. Loaded, with auto. Can trade $4750.

1996 Camry, Auto, 134k, looks and drives like new. Full warranty. $4500.

1997 Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo. Leather, auto. Just installed a new motor, timing chain. Cosmetically, mechanically, a "10." Recent 65 point check. $4350.

1997 Toyota 4Runner, SR5 package, leather, sunroof. Black on Black. 120k, $5950.

1997 Ford Ranger V6, 107k, just really clean with warranty. $3950.

2000 Toyota Solara, tudor, V6. Loaded. An extremely clean car that had cosmetic damage (fully repaired). Full warranty. Can trade. Dark green w/ biscuit leather. Gorgeous! $6250.

2002 Civic, tudor, auto, LX, 72k, clean as a pin, warranty. $7850. Never wrecked, never smoked in. Like new!

2002 BMW 325i, Possibly the nicest one you'll find anywhere. Never wrecked, never smoked in, just gorgeous. $13,250.

2003 Jaguar X-Type, 69k. Like new, in out. Can trade. Beautiful car. $11,900.

NEED A CAR? CAR BROKEN?

WANTED!!!!!!!!

Your business ...

We do all automotive repairs, from a $100,000 restoration to replacing your CV axle, or repairing body work. And dozens more repairs.

Come see us. We guarantee to beat any legit price up to 30 days after you pay us!

One street south of Kramer, 600 feet west of Lamar. 836-9767 days, 294-2885 nites, weekends 'til 9:30pm.

710 EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

ACOUSTIC PIANO YAMAHA STUDIO M500 - $2499 OBO, 44" Gallery Milano - Acoustic Upright+Bench. Prime cond, beautiful snd, great keyboard. Keeps tune for a LONG time. Paid $3500 (Strait) in '99. Movers broke leg off and removed other to "match" - voila: a European studio piano! Legs come with the package! Call 512-494-8376 to come take a look/play it!

BASS GUITARS 3 Bass guitars and amp, email censorednation@juno.com for details. 512-721-5217

GUITARS WANTED Need Xmas $$$ sell me your older, vintage, even broken Gibson Fender Grestch Rick or??? Top cash paid call Neal 461-1316

WEBSITE If you had a Les Paul Faded Double Cutaway guitar, you could be an awesome musician.

Find one online at **austinchronicle.com/classifieds.**

715 MUSIC INSTRUCTION

ACCELERATED MUSIC LESSONS AlanRoy.com. Guitar, bass, voice, mandolin, music theory; by ear or notes. 797-1906.

BASS LESSONS Friendliest and most patient bass teachers Guaranteed! Visit us at: **RedLeafSchoolOfMusic.com 512-444-GROW (4769)**

DRUM LESSONS Friendliest and most patient drum staff around Guaranteed! Visit us at: **redleafschoolofmusic.com (512) 444-GROW (4769)**

GUITAR Exp'd teacher. electric or acoustic. blues, jazz, rock, funk and theory. SoCo. $25/hr 444-5554

DRUMS NICK'S DRUM STUDIO PROFESSIONAL DRUM LESSONS Designed to help drummers get to the next level. Specifically for drumset musicians currently playing in bands wanting to expand what they do. Combines elements of great performances and learning to write excellent drum parts. 512.255.1786 www.nicksdrumstudio.com

GUITAR **GUITAR, BASS & DRUM LESSONS** **STRUM MUSIC SCHOOL** Experienced teachers Fun and relaxed environment Rock, Blues, Country, Jazz, Classical, Metal, etc. Theory, technique, ear training Rhythm & lead - Acoustic & Electric. **Learn to play your favorite songs or create your own music.** **www.StrumAustin.com** 512-328-5878

HARMONICA Michael Rubin michaelrubinharmonica.com 619-0761

HARMONICA LESSONS British National Harmonica Champion. All levels. **RedLeafSchoolOfMusic.com 512-444-GROW (4769)**

PIANO VOICE GUITAR FLUTE Pignotti Music Studio. Exp. professionals. All ages, all levels. 11106 Sage Hollow Dr. 873-8309 Austin.

GUITAR **GUITAR & BASS LESSONS** **RED LEAF SCHOOL OF MUSIC** The best music lessons experience in Austin. We guarantee it!

redleafschoolofmusic.com 512-444-GROW(4769)

VOCAL Instruction & Coaching for singers, aspiring singers & songwriters. All ages, All levels. With experienced teacher & acclaimed singer/songwriter. 386-9428 www.lisarichardsmusic.com

VOICE LESSONS for singers of all ages. All experience levels welcome. Professional recording studio on site. Call Emily Bem at 784-7728.

VOICE TRAINING Technique of the Stars. Certified Speech level singing. www.OctaveHigher.com

WEBSITE Vocals? Check. Guitar player? Check. Keyboards? Check.

Still looking for that magic drummer to make your dreams come true?

They might be online...check out **austinchronicle.com/classifieds.**

720 MUSICIANS AVAILABLE

DRUMS/PERCUSSION Austin drummer/percussionist seeks session and weeknight work. All styles. Highly-experienced, professional, dependable. Email matt1616@peoplepc.com.

GUITARIST Guitarist new to Austin. Melodic to power leads. Happy playing rhythm. Team player. Influences: George Jones to SRV to AC/DC. Play some bass & keys. Pro equipment. For fun or serious. Max 512-398-2722

KEYBOARD Accompanist/Pianist available---17 years as church Music Director---7 years in versatile band in 1980s---512 459 0837

OTHER PEDAL STEEL (with Alvin Crow) seeks additional local work. Google: Neil Flanz 512-383-0842

725 MUSICIANS WANTED

GUITAR ist wanted for songwriting work; fee negotiable. Recording capabilities and/or keyboard skills a plus. ackerjohn@hotmail.com

OTHER renegadestonoffun@live.com

FREE ADS Looking to hire a bartender? Have an apartment you need to rent? Want to advertise your handyman skills? All you need to do is go online to **www.austinchronicle.com/classifieds** and post your ad for FREE. Make it stand out with pictures! Highlight it by making it a featured ad! You can even run it in print! Ads run online for 30 days, and are posted immediately. After all, immediate gratification takes too long!

FEMALE VOCALIST Rotel and the Hot Tomatoes is holding auditions for a new female singer. This full-time working show band performs Motown, Disco, Pop, and Rock. You will sing leads, back-ups, and perform choreography. Send your head shots, demo cds and / or dvds to Rotel and the Hot Tomatoes, P.O. Box 33045 Austin, TX, 78764, Attn: New Tomato, All info sent becomes property of Rotel. Serious inquiries only.

730 RECORDING STUDIOS

ALL

Artist Development & Music Production

www.audiomoxie.com

512-835-8735

ALBUM BIG room BIG sound 10 yrs in Austin - jacketweather.com - 512.731.6094

ALL

8 hrs/$150

Great New Specials

512-326-5490

AltaVistaRecording.com

****IGNITING EXCELLENCE****

ACCEPTING CREDIT CARDS

DUPLICATION/GRAPHICS

Complete Services Under One Roof

Graphics, Printing & Manufacturing. Great service from people who care!

454-8324 or 800-880-0270

CD DUPLICATION MUSIC LAB 100 cd deal for $135. 50 cd deal for $100. Deals include: Duplication, 1-color print on CDs and jwl case. http://www.musiclab.net Call 326-3816 for more info

RECORD MIX MASTER **Great package deals! All generes welcome. www.thebrainmachine.com (512) 836-3100**

RECORDING STUDIO

AUSTIN TRAX STUDIO

16 Track 2 inch analog Automated Trident console Pro Tools, Wide selection of Vintage outboard gear, microphones and amps

Call 512-835-7677 AustinTrax.com

STUDIO

Live Digital Recordings. On sight duplication. Pre printed packages. Check out audio samples @ **www.affordablesound.com 459.5253**

735 RENTALS SERVICES

CD/DVD MANUFACTURING Short runs, quick turns, flyers, posters, shrink wrap CDR's, jcases 512-491-7000 www.triazdigital.com

ABELTON LIVE The Morakestra seeks individual skilled with Abelton Live for live performances, etc. www.myspace.com/themorasband email wwmora2002@yahoo.com or call (915)490-5622.

CD/DVD MANUFACTURING

AustinMusicDownload.com

Release your CD digitally

No out of pocket costs!

Register today!

PROMOTION

12" x 18" GLOSSY POSTERS!

100 - $79!!!

Advertise your shows 512-459-5253 www.affordablesound.com

REHEARSAL SPACE Low monthly/daily rates. Band Co-op. 339-1276 or DP 473-5050

740 SHAMELESS PROMOTION

NEW CD A blues CD by William Leal, "Hungry For Love." Listen & Buy at williamleal.com

Easy Street

free! CREATE A PROFILE AND BROWSE MORE ADS ONLINE!

austinchronicle.com/easystreet

CURVY AND SEXY
married and looking for someone special, kind, sweet, who can teach me the true meaning of love and sex. I enjoy giving oral pleasure. **curvy36**, 37, 📷, **#124141**

GODDESS OF LOVE
I enjoy intellectual conversation with company and demand respect from men. Ultimately, I want someone to genuinely display interest in getting to know me. **lolita**, 27, 📷, **#123960**

CUTE BI-CURIOUS FEMALE
I am looking for someone around my age group, no older than 34. Experienced or inexperienced. Must be attractive, either Latina or Caucasian and be around my same weight. **austingrl07**, 22, 📷, **#123569**

REWARDING DOM
Looking for a consistant submissive,not a one time experience. Would like to meet them before anything sexual obviously. If you are intrested, please feel free to contact me. **TomorrowsWorse**, 23, 📷, **#123509**

AUDACIOUS BEAUTY+ BRAIN
i see beauty beyond the orthodox vision of american eyes and seek someone with a strong sense of identity and awareness of the world willing to explore sensuality and sexuality. **SymposiumLover**, 20, 📷, **#119431**

LIBRARIAN LOVER
In an open marriage. Not looking for a relationship. More like a rainstorm; a fun and honest lover. Please no christians or republicans Must love films and libraries. **LucifersWaitress**, 27, ☎, 📷, **#119103**

IT'S PLAYTIME BOYS
I'm looking for a man that's sweet and caring but i get bored easily so he needs to be full of surprises so that i never get bored. **austinpartygurl1985**, 22, 📷, **#119045**

BI COUPLE LOOKING
attractive, expierenced couple seeking bi couples or single bi individuals for erotic play. lots of fun, like to play dress up, love heels,and naughty. big on bedroom eyes, great smiles. **playfullpair**, 33, 📷, **#124429**

THREE IS COMPANY
We're an attractive African-American couple looking for another to female to join us in spreading a little ìholiday cheerî. Be ready to please, I guarantee you will be. **Threeiscompany2**, 23, 📷, **#124414**

FIRST TIME COUPLE
we are a couple in love but wanting to expand our sexual pleasures. this would be our first time but we are very open minded. We're in our 40's. **080764**, 43, 📷, **#124403**

SENSUALCPLSEEKING SPICE
We are a committed middle-aged couple interested in experienting with like-minded individuals/couples to add spice to our hot lovemaking. If the words discreet, sensual, erotic, passionate, imaginative, fun interest you, contact us. **garf5848**, 48, 📷, **#123217**

CRAZY ASS COUPLE
Married couple 36 female, 41 male, looking for single(s) or couple(s) that are not new to group sex. No Strings, no games, just great sex! **ginger**, 36, 📷, **#124266**

PARADISE IN TEXAS
We're creating paradise for a special woman that would love to join us. There's 16 acres to play in so being naked is a plus. Are you that special lady? **LoversNParadise**, 35, ☎, 📷, **#124199**

WHATYOUNEED
we are a nice couple i am 22 and he 20 i have experience and he does not i wish to share and show so if interested. **bandj**, 22, 📷, **#120784**

WANNA JOIN US?
We're a couple, he is 31 she 22 and we're looking for someone to join us for a little fun. Looking for women who share the same fantasies and lifestyle. **CuriousCouple8576**, 22, 📷, **#123997**

HOT VIXEN PLAYMATE
I am a very attractive woman, tall, blonde and very sexual...Looking for a female playmate to share fun girl on girl times while my hot boyfriend watches the fun... **mitzifenmore**, 38, 📷, **#123847**

ATTRACTIVE, BI-CURIOUS FEM
Bi-curious, inexperienced, attractive, slender fem looking for a single bi-fem for friendship – & discreet, sexy encounters, dancing. Looking for height/weight proportionate, outdoorsy, fem girl adventures. **Ruby**, 31, 📷, **#124362**

EXPAND YOUR HORIZON
bi-curious, sexy, stylish, feminine, exotic woman. looking for adventures with sexy guys and feminine girls. Chemistry is a must. I long for sophistication more than anything else. **mnemosyne**, 32, 📷, **#124135**

DISCRETION WITH BENEFITS
Kinda-bi looking 4 same.No couples.Just party and play together. Love girl kissing & playing grab ass. I am pretty, femme and looking for the same; no make up, waifs ok. **Izzy11**, 31, 📷, **#117594**

LESBIAN LOVE
I'm a petite fem girl looking to mess around with similar. Preferably around my age and no strings attached. **heybaby**, 19, 📷, **#123524**

PINUP SEXXXY FEMME
bi-sexual femme with a flair for all things retro. i love burlesque, pinup, and fifties fashions. come play with me? **atxbibabe**, 29, 📷, **#123507**

KINKY BOOK LOVER
I'm just a kinky nerdy girl looking for some kinky nerdy sex. Can you flog me while you make me conjugate Latin verbs? If so, we should meet! **Plagosa**, 25, 📷, **#123241**

OPEN RELATIONSHIP
26yro, 5'3, 140, athletic, Brn/Brn, MWF. In an open relationship. Laid-back, flexible and love to laugh. Seeks discreet, fun and safe sexual encounter(s) with a woman. **Pierce**, 27, 📷, **#123112**

ATTRACTIVE, INEXPERIENCED, BI-CURIOUS
Attractive,mid 40's/5'3/110lbs,hispanic female,married d/d/free,looking to explore with another woman also bi-curious and inexperienced.Prefer attractive, d/d/free,open minded, height/weight proportionate hispanic/caucasian female. Must be willing to occasionally include my shy handsome husband. **davn**, 47, ☎, 📷, **#120088**

GIRL PLAYMATES
Sexy femme girl looking for the same to play. I'm into fashion and style and I prefer girls who share the same interest. **Catwalk**, 30, 📷, **#119900**

WHAT YOU SEE
What you see is what you get, no lies, you wat to know something ask the answer will be truthfull. **Puddly**, 36, 📷, **#122311**

SEEKING SWITCH PARTNER
You-looking for fun first and formost with no pre-conceived expectations. US: Just average people looking for an above average time ;) Prefer sf, couples ok. Inexperienced welcomed. Honesty refreshing. **Bifemaustincpl**, 31, ☎, 📷, **#121712**

FOOT/WS SLAVE
Seeking straight or bi masculine, slim buddies who love to be spoiled with foot massages. If your interested in either foot massages, write me. **MaleFootSearch**, 46, ☎, 📷, **#123872**

TICKLE THERAPY
Need a good laugh? Expert tickler will use his wicked light touch everywhere from armpits to toes. Cute, smart, easy-going, respectful, and thorough! Can email a pic on request. **feather_fingers**, 40, ☎, 📷, **#122033**

SEXUAL ARTIST
Write if you want to know a well-rounded, intelligent, thoughtful, sexy man. I enjoy well-rounded hispanic, black and italian men. Low maintenance kind of guy. Casual encounters are fine. **cookster**, 47, ☎, 📷, **#121616**

HOTGUY LOOKING FOR
Hispanic Bottom, looking for a discret encounter and a relationship with a Top guy. I am discret Open to new things with guys around my age or youngers.46yrs. **antonio_3638**, 43, 📷, **#118402**

LOOKING TO EXPERIMENT
Serial monogomist, looking to explore, be explored, and experiment. Can be shy, but I'm open for trying things. Man/woman or man/woman/woman. intimate encounter or fun relationship. **cyrano**, 27, 📷, **#123432**

MAN'S LADY'S MAN
Handsome, classy, sensual lady's man who loves to be a soft, silky man's lady. Seeking couples and women for a walk on the wild side in my sexy French lingerie. **Pantyboy**, 42, 📷, **#123387**

WANTING IT ALL
I'm 39, 5í3ì, 165 lb male w/starving sex drive. Recently free to fulfill all pleasures. Looking 4 right person/couple to explore what I've been missing. Bi-curious looking 4 discrete encounters. **forfunexcitement**, 39, 📷, **#122318**

MAKE YOU SCREAM!
Looking for someone to have fun with, see where things go. A roommate with benefits or a kinky girlfriend or TS girlfriend (or friend w/ benefits) would be great. **Metalopn**, 26, 📷, **#122364**

DOM SEEKS SUB
dom seeks sub for play you must be willing submissive given to my pleasure do what i want how i whant when i want if thats clear then contact me. **thief127**, 41, 📷, **#116202**

SUB BI MALE
Experienced, kinky, submissive, bi male, into almost everything! Sane, safe, DD free, descrete, nasty, kinky and looking to play! **subslut**, 43, ☎, 📷, **#122208**

TXSIZELOV'IN
I'm looking for fun. Play well with others, easy going and a big smile. Open to try anything once. If I like, I did it again and again and again. **BigSmileKeith**, 43, 📷, **#122157**

SEXY CROSSDRESSER
Sexy Crossdresser looking for force feminization to teach me the proper ways of womanhood. I have sexy B cupped breasts. Love lingerie, Corsets, Girdles, ect. I'm open to anything new. **jackie66**, 41, 📷, **#122825**

YOUR PERFECT GURL
Adventure loving, happy go lucky Gurl seeks mentor for sharing, caring, exploring, intimate fun. You will not be disappointed with a pleasure oriented devotee looking for like minded girlfriend. **Lynda61521**, 48, 📷, **#119822**

CROSSDRESSER ISO GIRLFRIEND
I am a very passable and kinky crossdresser. I am bisexual, but prefer women. I'm primarily looking for a girlfriend, but occassional play partners and friendships are good, too. **kinky_violet**, 26, 📷, **#120083**

SUBBOTTOM SEEKS TOPS
Submissive Bottom looking for other men to play with. Luv to cross dress if you like that. Safe play and DDF required. **jess53**, 54, 📷, **#116914**

BLONDE SHEMALE TOP
Hot Blonde TS girl, likes to have late night (no strings) fun. Seeking HOT FIT WHITE Guys that like whats going on between my legs. **BlondeHottie**, 33, ☎, 📷, **#101055**

LOVES EATING PUSSY
I am a hispanic guy in north austin. I am a college grad. I also have a twin bro, wink wink, I am ddf. **wellsbranchguy08**, 27, 📷, **#124443**

NEW TO AUSTIN!!!
I'd like to meet new people here in Austin at the Libary, Aquarium. If you want to hook up use my account name at Yah...Send me a Line.. **DateUme**, 28, 📷, **#124428**

MUSICIAN WITH SKILLS
I'm young and attractive, looking for an intelligent woman that loves seduction as much as I do. Mental foreplay will turn any woman into a goddess. **bcc77**, 24, 📷, **#124402**

NEW IN TOWN
6' athletic build indie guy into music and foreplay looking for some strings-free fun and we can see no big girls, no gay men, scenesters please reply tattoos a plus. **charmingman2706**, 28, ☎, 📷, **#124388**

LIKE MINDED PERSON?
Good looking, fun, educated, professional, normal guy looking for a woman for friends with benefits. I am truly looking for friends equally as much as benefits unlike many other guys. **All_About_Fun**, 40, 📷, **#124318**

080764

FUN COUPLE SEEKING THE SAME

we are a couple in love but wanting to expand our sexual pleasures. this would be our first time but we are very open minded. We're in our 40's and attractive. Not supermodels. We would love to find another open minded couple to introduce us into this next level of fun

read the rest of 080764's profile or enter your own profile for FREE online at austinchronicle.com/easystreet

THE LUV DOC

Armadillo Christmas Bazaar • Austin Convention Center • 500 E. Cesar Chavez

www.armadillobazaar.com

If you're unable to spend Christmas in Vegas, try not to be pissy about it. Neither did Jesus, and he had crazy connections. Besides, plenty of people manage to make do with Austin's relatively amateurish attempts at garishness and schmaltz. We have 37th Street, a dazzling ode to excess that's just a few bong hits shy of becoming a Binion's or a Bally's. It's singularly impressive, but for some reason the residents are either too chintzy or too stoned to comp drinks. You would think that might affect their draw, but every year 37th Street is overrun by lumbering herds of slack-jawed touristas just like the Vegas Strip. Amazing. Ditto for the Zilker Trail of Lights. Even though the ZTOL is strung up by underpaid city workers (probably with a jaded enthusiasm not unlike the dollar blackjack table cocktail waitresses at the Horseshoe), it nonetheless sparkles with the same sweaty palmed, attention whoring desperation of a Circus Circus or Flamingo, and most amazingly, does so without a profit motive. Say what you will about the Vegas casinos' unconscionable waste of water and electricity, at least they're contributing to the local economy by bringing in busloads of cash. ZTOL on the other hand, brings in busloads of stoned high school kids, homeless winos, traffic jam masochists, and those scary people who finish their holiday shopping by mid July. Jackpot. Your tax dollars at work. With just a little more investment the city could surely erect a nice Greyhound track on the soccer fields at Zilker and recoup some of the cost. Talk about a win-win: In one fell swoop the city could suppress the insidious influence of un-American sports and encourage the unbridled lust for materialism that made this nation great. When it comes right down to it, all that Christmas spirit isn't worth a bucket of warm spit if it doesn't fuel holiday spending. A couple hundred thousand people milling around Zilker marveling at the pretty lights are a few hundred thousand people not out Christmas spending their hard-earned cash. Is that really the Christmas spirit? Shouldn't all those gaudy holiday decorations stand for something more than just a warm, fuzzy feeling? If you really want to get in the Christmas spirit and you haven't already booked a flight to Vegas, you can still salvage the season by heading down to the 32nd Armadillo Christmas Bazaar at the Austin Convention Center. This weekend and up until 11pm Christmas Eve, the Armadillo Christmas Bazaar will offer all manner of artsy knick-knacks, whatsits, and whys to turn your Christmas list from to-dos to tadas! And, like any local event worth its salt, the Armadillo Christmas Bazaar has live music by the van-load. For a paltry $3 ($6 after 7pm) you can see acts like Sara Hickman, Ruthie Foster, the Eggmen, the Derailers, Van Wilks, Heybale, Shelley King, and Ponty Bone & the Squeezetones – a veritable who's who of Austin music. Now that's the spirit of Christmas giving. If only they would just comp some drinks.

austinchronicle.com/easystreet

BROWSE these ads and more online for **FREE**.

ENTER your own profile for **FREE**.

RESPOND by e-mail directly through our site with a membership.

This icon 📷 indicates that a photo is posted online.

This icon ☎ means there is a voice message you can listen to. With a membership, you can listen and respond to as many voice messages as your heart desires. There are no 900 #s or per minute fees. Regular long distance charges may apply.

VOICE RESPONSE: 520.547.4259

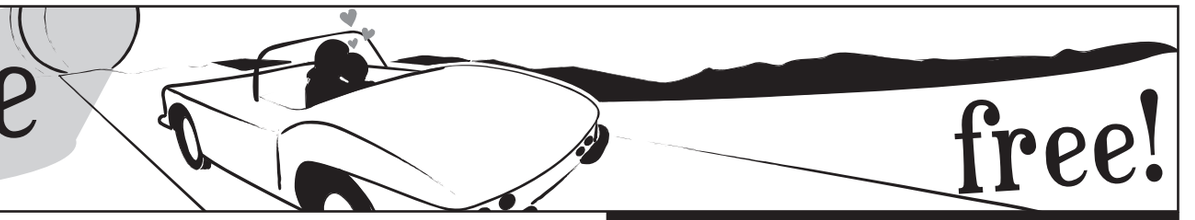
membership is simple:

EASY STREET

1 day pass	$10.00
7 day pass	$20.00
30 day pass	$30.00
90 day pass	$60.00

Each pass gives you all-access, unlimited searching, browsing, e-mailing, calling, and responding.

Lovers Lane



free!

CREATE A PROFILE AND BROWSE MORE ADS ONLINE!
austinchronicle.com/loverslane

women SEEKING men

I'M ME NOTU
"How delightful am I?" i dunno. It depends if you like smart, silly, petite, gun totin ex-circus preformers who have turned into current mental ward patients. **sassyfras77**, 30, 📷, **#124385**

NATURAL, EARTHY, MUSIC-LOVER
I am a very simple, honest, and joyful woman. I am interested in making friends with those who guide their life with their heart. **Cypress**, 50, ☎, 📷, **#124380**

BEAUTIFUL WILD CHILD
I'm new to Austin and I'm just interested in meeting people to hang out with. I'm a struggling Artist that likes to ride on motorcycles and in fast cars. **Queen_Corvina**, 31, 📷, **#124343**

WARM, PEACEFUL, KIND
I'm a warm hearted, great sense of humor, sensitive, peaceful, professional, Hispanic 45 year old woman. I would like to meet gentlemen for friendship, and dating. Ages 38-52 years old. **forty-something**, 45, ☎, 📷, **#124316**

FUNNY, KIND, WITTY.
Vivacious,kind,fit,petite, prof, fun to be with,smart,very family oriented loves the outdoors,organic wines,the gym, movies,the arts, healthy lifestyle, would love to find, a friend to enjoy what Austin has to offer. **Spanishrose**, 41, 📷, **#124282**

WORKIN' IT
I love new and exciting experiences. I have lived in many places and each one shapes me into a better person. I love to laugh and yoga it up. **sirena834**, 28, 📷, **#124278**

WHERE ARE YOU?
Looking for my match. I'm fun, outgoing, somewhat witty, love animals and music. Looking for someone for me to get to know and hopefully date and see where it goes. **deenadub**, 34, 📷, **#124272**

DON'T STOP BELIEVIN'
Just moved to Austin and would really enjoy just meeting someone and getting to know the city. Love to do or go anywhere long as its fun. Up for anything. **mal06**, 19, 📷, **#124208**

THAT FUNKY MONKEY
currently working toward a government degree. I love to laugh, i'm not looking for a serious relationship, maybe just someone to watch Chris Farley movies with... we'll see. **Chachi**, 21, 📷, **#124173**

MAKING IT!
Partial to music, making out, making it! Impartial to liars, mooches, slutty chicks (take it off for money or love girls), people who clap at the end of movies. **jennasis**, 24, 📷, **#124177**

LIVELY AND FUN!
I'm looking for someone to go waltzing in the rain, prancing through creekbeds, and galavanting in the park with. Let's run away on an adventure! **Carrie_E**, 20, 📷, **#124111**

STRESSED COLLEGE CO-ED
I'm the one who drives with the windows down and the radio on full blast. I'm the one who slips and falls and can't help but laugh. I'm the one... **kl1153**, 20, 📷, **#124057**

UP TO 5
If your like me, you scroll until you find what you like.... **tasha**, 38, 📷, **#124020**

men SEEKING women

WILD EYED VIRGIN
the past days were all a fast haze and now the sun has sunk on my teen years and tears drip drop outta my clock. i need my sexual rite. **substrate**, 20, ☎, 📷, **#124439**

UNCOMMON DOWN2EARTH GEEK
Although computers encompass my time, I'd rather be in a horsebarn picking hooves or floating the San Marcos River. Life is not cookiecutter, so shoot for the good times. **javabirdy**, 45, ☎, 📷, **#124435**

HELLO, DARLIN'
Creative, mischievous Texas gentleman. Off-beat tastes. I love cooking or eating good food and women who don't take themselves too seriously. Gardening and road trips, going out or staying in. **ginuwine_texan**, 49, ☎, 📷, **#124376**

DARKLY ARTISTIC MUSICAN.
i have a morbid sense of humor and slight meglomaniascism.I am like that teddy bear with spikes that keeps humping the cat.I love music, but its not as fun alone. **tattoometal_inc**, 23, 📷, **#124363**

RESTLESS HEART
Looking for an attractive, genuine, intelligent female in the Austin region to become a confidant, companion, trusted friend, passionate lover, kindred spirit and/or long term partner. Preferably in that order. **Estaven**, 54, ☎, 📷, **#124360**

WALKING IN SPIRALS
Others might think one is walking in circles; it's actually an expanding spiral of learning. I'm a sailor/explorer/adventurer at heart, currently landlocked and bound for journeys to the inner realms... **Pelagian**, 53, 📷, **#115321**

MOVIE-LOVIN' MAN
New to Austin (from NYC). Have some friends here, would love to meet new people to explore the city with. I love watching movies and anything creative: Writing, words, music. **Chuck1187**, 20, 📷, **#124344**

AN AMERICAN GUY
I am not a Salesman so I need not Sell myself. Get to know me for who I am. **relay98**, 29, 📷, **#124317**

NEW IN TOWN
im a nice guy i like hanging out with friends and meeting new people im looking for a girl that likes to joke around alot enjoys the outdoors. **MrBrightside**, 26, 📷, **#124307**

IT'S ONLY ROCK
things in common-music/art/movies/books.. believes in laughter-has passions besides me-loves the outdoors/not afraid to be adventurous...can agree to disagree without feeling threatened...i am a person that believes these things are essential. **shipwreck**, 30, ☎, 📷, **#124251**

MANY MORE ADS ONLINE!
austinchronicle.com/loverslane

LOOKING TO DATE
I'm a 27 yr old grad student at Texas State U. and work full time. I like to do things outdoors. I love animals, football (go cowboys), arguing (not yelling). **tigertiff816**, 27, ☎, 📷, **#123956**

COULD THIS WORK?
Not sure, but what the heck! I enjoy salsa dancing, traveling, family gatherings and good friends/company... I would like to find someone special with similar traits. **mexican_gordita**, 37, 📷, **#123930**

FRIENDLY, LOVING, INTELLIGENT
I am fairly well in the middle of the extrovert/introvert scale. I am a kind, interesting, intelligent, warm-hearted, and growing person. **aprilfourteenth**, 54, ☎, 📷, **#123925**

HELLO
i am a very good looking girl looking for a man who know what love is all about to a woman. **suslove**, 24, 📷, **#123889**

TRUE CONNECTION SAUGHT
Libra metal chick lookin for some love...likes shows,parties,drinkin. Looking for a real connection...whatever else that entails then so be it..must love to go to shows and be a social person... **luvinlady**, 20, 📷, **#123845**

FRACTION OF ME
I'm only getting 30 words to describe myself. Impossible - so let's talk when I don't have limitations... Did I mention that I am fun? **Myself**, 30, 📷, **#123785**

EASYGOING ADVENTUROUS FRIENDLY
When I'm not at work, you can find me shooting pool at Deep Eddy Cabaret or having a chocolate-espresso martini at Halcyon. I dig Sushi and Thai food. **NocLiq**, 24, 📷, **#124431**

NERDY FUNNY ROCKNROLL
Fun loving guy looking for some intellectual stimulation and someone to laugh with. Someone to join me on spontaneous adventures, midnight movies, random house parties, and other enlightening experiences. **nerdtastic**, 23, 📷, **#124427**

MUSICIAN SEEKING INSPIRATION
Unconventional , creative , good natured , honest , musician type seeks female counterpart who's also a creative type ,with her own life , to share free time with . **bigstevied**, 52, 📷, **#124418**

THIS IS SPARTA!
i just wasted 8 of my 30 words! i'll stop using vowels! i lv astn. lrnng gd, tv bd. iv sn ghstlnd bsrvtry 8 tms. srry, n mr wrds lft. **phototype**, 38, 📷, **#124417**

ISLANDBOY SEEKS CONVERSATIONCOFFEE
SciFi enhanced carbon based lifeform seeks complimentary unit for processing & field research. If naked windows turn you on drop me an email. **Nessius**, 30, 📷, **#124411**

OUTDOORSY, GETTO REDNECK
Outdoors junkie. Tired of the club scene and ready to move on with my life. If you love the outdoors lets hang out, maybe we can teach each other something. **austinniceguy**, 30, 📷, **#124398**

THREEWORDSISN'TENOUGHFOR AHEADLING... FOR REAL
If it makes you laugh atleast that's something. I recently moved here and I'm looking to meet people. Seriously, We don't need to hump I can just imagine it later... **indie_guy**, 28, ☎, 📷, **#124389**

women SEEKING women

FEMME 4 RELATIONSHIP
My name is Sarah... honestly looking for a relationship 20 y/o.Long,Blk hr, Drk Brwn Iz, 5'4, 110,Brwn Skn Lotz of pics I hope you do to :D. **SekCBinX**, 20, 📷, **#124419**

JUST LOOKING
Looking for a long time too. Can't find the right Bi woman. Could it be you? Guess I'll just cross my fingers and see. I'm pretty picky, but not Dicky. **LoversInParadise**, 50, 📷, **#124333**

LOVE JIM MORRISON
I love the outdoors,music, and conversing with everyone I encounter. I believe at jumping at every opportunity, and if you are in a position to help others you should. **maryjane**, 20, 📷, **#124326**

KINK_FREAK
So..I am a super cool chic, according to myself. I love the nightlife. I love gorgeous girls, not boy looking types. I'm always down for whatever. **tbozalicious**, 22, 📷, **#124160**

LOUDLOVINGLOSER
outgoing, talkative person.i adore my friends, family & pets.lover of all music & film genres.can't beat a good live show& when paired with good company, makes for the best dates. **rieslingowl**, 20, 📷, **#124126**

SIMPLE, FUNNY, DRAMALESS
Respectfully entirely too open minded. I process my thoughts before they leave my mouth. I like shows. I'm pretty funny, serious when needed, more glass full type. **Rebecka_Ann**, 24, 📷, **#124084**

AWAKENED
I have been working on my artist project for awhile. Now I have the quality time to find friends and enjoy life. I'm very open,honest person but shy around people. **magic**, 50, ☎, 📷, **#124075**

SKINNYDIP ANYONE?
like's animals, live shows, hot poeple, bubbles, movies/tv shows and barton springs.hate's tomato's, spelling, the mall, cigarrettes and awkward moments. i like very pretty girls who are sure of themselfs. **smile4me**, 18, 📷, **#123970**

LANGUID, LAVISH LOVER
Soft nerd, 25-year old bookseller looking for casual dates and marathon rolls in the hay. Don't deny me the pleasure of your company. **Pippin**, 25, 📷, **#123723**

OUTSPOKEN MUSIC LOVER
I love music,from rap to rock to spanish pop. I got tattoos,0's gauges and piercings. Im a communications major with a sense of perverted humor who cooks mexican food ORALE! **misshexum**, 21, ☎, 📷, **#123761**

I LOVE REDHEADS
I'm a history nut who loves film and civil rights. I'm not uncomfortable feeling weird and I'm looking for someone who feels the same. **heyyouitsme**, 19, 📷, **#123523**

GANGSTA_DJIZZLE
I'm between a dj & art designa.I hang out at Dragon's Lair and Brentwood Park. Lookin' 4 a shawty that can cook,party like a rockstar,and that can hang wit my family. **djlin**, 19, 📷, **#120652**

LIGHT MY FIRE
classic, curvy, shy cuddle bunny looking for a beautiful, unique, intelligent and open-minded girl who can tolerate my occasional dorkiness and random dancing. well? could we get much higher? hahaha. **ganjxnymph**, 18, 📷, **#123442**

FEROCIOUS, FIREY, KIND
I love to laugh at life & look in people's eyes. I'm not afraid of love, but I'm not chasing it. I'm want a strong women - physically emotionally mentally. **Enijen**, 25, 📷, **#123441**

ANY COOL GIRLS?
Just want to find some good quality girlfriends, with brain power. I paint, write, create, travel, and cook. Love fashion. Do you share any of these passions with me? **momo**, 33, 📷, **#123417**

SEEKING AUSTIN ADVENTURES
Cute, funny, outgoing, professional (age 37) seeks fellow non-smokers for friendship and possibly dating. No bisexuals. Would prefer over 30 and under 50. Must love water, movies, dining, and dancing. **LeoAugust2**, 37, ☎, 📷, **#122416**

men SEEKING men

PAPIMORENO
Slender, fit professional Latino seeking available fit guys for dating, open to a never-ending relationship. I enjoy dancing, working out, massaging, yoga. My best quality my huge heart. **124268**, 55, 📷, **#124268**

TAKE THE PLUNGE
Stable single guy looking to meet nice guys for fun, friendship, and possible long term romance. I enjoy biking, dining, cooking, as well as quiet times at home. **timebuddy**, 53, 📷, **#121119**

IS IT YOU?
Where have all the good men gone? I am hoping that you are still there and that you are looking for me too. GBM, 39, looking for you. **Colorado**, 39, 📷, **#123381**

BROODING, SHALLOW, PEDANTIC
pragmatist seeks cheeky times. Competent, well balanced men over 30 preferred; short,meaty/husky/stocky, overly educated a plus. Not looking for hookups, instant romance, or teetotallers. Me: 30yo, 6'0, 185lbs, VGL-fit, masc. **Sarkany**, 30, 📷, **#123189**

CUTE ITALIAN LEO
I am a poet, a writer, a digital graphic artist, a Romantic, a Macintosh guru and a funny guy. I love the outdoors: camping, hiking, picnicking. Oh, and I'm HIV-positive. **panepinto**, 42, 📷, **#121697**

ATYPICAL, FLACO, EASY-GOING
Eclectic, smart, fun, professional, creative, curious, outdoors, DIY, garden, software, humor, travel. You please be relatively fit, mature, confident, diverse interests, traveled, down-to-earth, spirited, versatile. **divid0**, 48, 📷, **#119363**

Nerdtastic

NERDY FUNNY ROCK N' ROLL

Fun loving guy looking for some intellectual stimulation and someone to laugh with who can handle some playful sarcasm. I plan on learning continuously throughout my life, I'm currently pursuing a M.S. in Computer Science. Looking for someone who loves spontaneous adventures, like road trips and bizarre midnight movies. Austin seems like the perfect place for finding those random adventures, I just need a companion!

read the rest of NERDTASTIC's profile or enter your own profile for FREE online at
austinchronicle.com/loverslane

austinchronicle.com/loverslane

BROWSE these ads and more online for **FREE**.

ENTER your own profile for **FREE**.

RESPOND by e-mail directly through our site with a membership.

This icon 📷 indicates that a photo is posted online.

This icon ☎ means there is a voice message you can listen to. With a membership, you can listen and respond to as many voice messages as your heart desires. There are no 900 #s or per minute fees. Regular long distance charges may apply.

VOICE RESPONSE: 520.547.4265

membership is simple:
LOVERS LANE

1 day pass	$5.00
7 day pass	$10.00
30 day pass	$20.00
90 day pass	$40.00

Each pass gives you all-access, unlimited searching, browsing, e-mailing, calling, and responding.

ENTER TO WIN! Place a **FREE PROFILE** on Lovers Lane with your photo before 5pm Monday, Dec. 31, and you could win a **$150 GIFT CERTIFICATE** to **CINDIE'S**! **austinchronicle.com/loverslane**

Cindie's

JUST friends

LOOKING FOR LOVE
Laid back, hopeless romantic, jeans and t-shirt type guy looking for Mr Right. Looking for a partner that I can boot-scoot through life. Looking for THE DANCE. **tkaustin**, 49, 📷, **#119526**

REFRESHING AND QUIRKY
I'm a fun and free-spirited person. I love experiencing new things, meeting new people, and living life to the fullest. If this sounds like you, we'll get along quite nicely. **nightblindness**, 24, 📷, **#118639**

SINGLE IN AUSTIN
Hopeless romantic, laid back, down to earth guy, interested in dating, new friendships, and more along the way. Iím looking for guys with good hearts, good head over their shoulders. **juan41381**, 26, 📷, **#115939**

IT'S ALL GOOD!
Looking for a boyfriend? 48 yr. old Hispanic with a lot to offer.I am looking for someone who is SINGLE and honest,no drugs,is that you? Let me know. **HusbandMaterial**, 50, ☎, 📷, **#115672**

LOVABLY ALOOF
I are me. **redalexistheseventh**, 24, 📷, **#124423**

PUNK MAMA
busy. **zombiegirl1986**, 21, 📷, **#124358**

BLUE EYED BOY
I'm a kind and generous software engineer that would much rather be composing music, living off the grid somewhere in the mountains of NM, and am looking for new friends. **MazeRat**, 50, 📷, **#124338**

COUPLE SEEKING FLIPSIDE-FRIENDS
Two cool kids out of college 23/24 y/old. Looking for like-minded couples or individuals to hang, listen to music, and smoke, while enjoying the hill country atmosphere. **chiefdog**, 22, 📷, **#124334**

GNARLY?, KILLER?, COUNTRY?.....REALLY?
HONESTLY?!.....I signed up so I could send ms_stone a message :). **Real_Name**, 33, 📷, **#124252**

SHORT N SWEET
Short and sweet is my name, making friends is my game. Think you can outcheese me? I dare you to give it a go. **VanaloveOo**, 18, 📷, **#124156**

NEW TO AUSTIN
I'm new to Austin and looking for some new friends to go out with at night. I'm smart, sarcastic, and professional and really, I'm just looking to have fun. **puckplayer**, 22, 📷, **#124100**

OI!
Im relatively new to the area and am lookin for people of similiar mind and vibe to stroll through Austin with and share some good experiences. **Rick**, 33, 📷, **#124051**

PICK ME!
I am not a fortunate son, in fact, much the opposite. Working hard, learning from mistakes, and constantly challenging my reality for the purposes of self-improvement are philosophies I embrace. **irotsoma**, 30, 📷, **#123976**

LOOKING FOR FRIENDS
New in town and so far loving it... but would like to meet some like minded people to share time and go out with. **lucyndsky**, 51, 📷, **#123762**

messages

YO YOU THEIR gurl? No, she's not here anymore.

BOOM SWAGGER SWAGGER
boom boom!

OH BEAUTIFUL AUSTIN, i've missed you so much.

a Shot in the Dark

LAMA FOUNDATION
You got along well with my dog, so we talked about the Lama Foundation. When you left I was too shy to say anything, but wanted to.... another chance? coffee? **When: Monday, December 17. Where: Bouldin Creek, Austin, TX. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902495**

TEX-MEX CONNECTION?
I'm a hostess at a popular restaurant,you were with your friends for a birthday party. I couldn't keep my eyes off of you. I'd love to get to know you. **When: Saturday, December 15. Where: Chuy's. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902493**

TOADIES SHOW
Incredible red headed beauty who shared a few Lone Stars and dances with me. Still thinking about what a great time we had. Share another Lone Star under the stars? **When: Friday, December 14. Where: Toadies Show. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902492**

JO'S SOCO EMPLOYEE
dark hair, tan skin. i think you are adorable and i want to know you. i think we should totally hang out. i'd ask you next time, but im shy **When: Monday, December 17. Where: jo's s. congress. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902491**

UGLY SWEATER PTY
met tube top shopping 12/15/07 you're not allowed but MAYBE we can meet again..wanna? nice backdrop. **When: Saturday, December 15. Where: ugly xmas sweater shopping. You: Man. Me: Woman. ☎ #902490**

MICHAEL AT CISCO-S.
You: Michael from St. Louis, real sweet, works for Cisco Systems. Me: long brown hair, same seat-row. Laughing about: water shortage, family hazards, Dostoevsky– Fun! Join me for a drink? **When: Thursday, November 22. Where: SWAir flight to Houston. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902489**

WHOLEFOODS COOKING CLASS
I stopped you in the Wine/beer section asked if you could cook.You Jennifer(DELL sales)wearing a red sweater and black skirt who travels everywhere, me tall just moved lost your e-mail. **When: Thursday, November 29. Where: Whole Foods Lamar. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902488**

LADY "SPOON" GODIVA
I was meandering around the intertubes and happened upon you stunning visage. If you can forgive my cowardice and would like to chat please drop me a line. **When: Saturday, December 15. Where: A certain chronicle of a road to love. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902487**

WE MISSED ONCE
You: "whymihere" Me: "I've got the answer." You: Conventionally unconventional. Me: Unconventionally conventional. You've got the lock; I've got the key. Let's don't miss again. **When: Monday, December 3. Where: online. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902486**

OILCAN HARRY'S SHOTBOY
you were wearing black jeans.you have long brown hair! you're a shot boy at oilcan harry's. you looked busy. i was wearing a purple hoodie. we should grab a drink! **When: Saturday, December 15. Where: OilCan Harry's. You: Man. Me: Man. #902485**

TOM RUTA MAYA
Wearing stripes both nights. Professor was in the band, I was your waitress. Bumped into you at Ruta Maya, both history majors. Wanted to talk more. Coffee sometime? **When: Friday, December 14. Where: Patsys, Ruta Maya. You: Man. Me: Woman. ☎ #902484**

DEVIN THRIFT SHOP
Thursday 13.You asked if I was seeing her. I lied. We broke up last month. I'm sorry.I felt electric every time you past me by. Second chance? **When: Thursday, December 13. Where: stasney and manchaca. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902483**

MOTORHEAD FOX GIRL
Tuesday 12/11/07 (I think), the exact moment the Central library opened; I was queued when you walked past, all in black, with a MOTORHEAD PURSE-! ME: Motorhead bandana, Find Me! **When: Tuesday, December 11. Where: Downtown. You: Woman. Me: Man. ☎ #902482**

BEARDED IN INTERSECTION
You were crossing the street outside Whole Foods when we made eye contact. You bearded in a Keep Austin Weird Shirt. Me bearded in a button down shirt and jeans. **When: Saturday, December 8. Where: Outside Whole Foods. You: Man. Me: Man. ☎ #902480**

TRUDY'S CENTRAL WEDNESDAY..
OK...you were a beautiful blonde with awesome eyes and perfect teeth. You were wearing a cream colored suede jacket and with a lot of friends. Go online for more. **When: Wednesday, December 12. Where: Trudy's central. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902479**

DEC2 ABIA PARKINGA
We said "hi" on shuttle to parking lot. I was wearing a green/white ballcap. I caught a bug/wrong shuttle. U left in white Ford PU? Let's finish our hello's **When: Sunday, December 2. Where: ABIA Shuttle to Parking "A". You: Man. Me: Woman. #902478**

TRAINING @ RINGERS
You: waitress with a wonderful smile Me: Blue Moon Drink sometime? **When: Thursday, December 13. Where: Ringers. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902481**

KEVIN BOEING EVERETT
Kevin on Flight 41 Southwest flight from Little Rock Arkansas to Dallas.We hit it off talked the whole way.I should have gotten your number.Thanks for the hug.-Gabbrielle **When: Monday, November 26. Where: South West flight 41 & Dallas Airport. You: Man. Me: Woman. ☎ #902477**

XXX JENNA XXX
I met you a year ago, and you're still in my dreams. I bet you $1 you see the ad this week. **When: Monday, December 18, 2006. Where: Austin. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902476**

ZIGGY STARDUST- 12/10
So much stardust in my eyes, couldn't tell if you were with someone or not. You paused for a while at my row looking for a seat.I was wearing a beret. **When: Monday, December 10. Where: Alamo Downtown. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902475**

STARBUCKS
you: short blonde hair, laptop, headphones, accompanied by a beautiful smile. Me: shirt, tie, leaving... shared a smile. interested in grabbing a drink sometime?? New to austin. **When: Tuesday, December 11. Where: starbucks. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902474**

MAGGIE MAE'S 12/7
By bar on patio. You: white outfit with gold belt celebrating friend's 21st birthday. Me: maroon polo shirt. We made eyes several times and I let you walk away. **When: Friday, December 7. Where: Maggie Mae's Patio. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902473**

RUNAWAY JUSTIN
thought we mite runaway 2 mexico but i think you forgot to check to see if i was still behind you. lost yr#. don't think twice, just call back, ok?! **When: Saturday, July 7. Where: barflies n a hindi dance party, lol. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902472**

ONE DOLLAR BLING
Cuties rapping and buying plastic mouth bling. Two adorable brunettes in glasses. I was in line behind you and saw your photo fun. I couldn't pick a favorite, double date? **When: Sunday, December 9. Where: 51st Street Dollar Tree. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902471**

JULIE AT TODD
We talked at the Todd show and you left early, I wanted to talk to you. **When: Tuesday, December 4. Where: Antones. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902462**

COATS FOR KIDS
Hi! You have fabulous blue eyes and were in the ever revolving general volunteer line. Beyond the fact that your blue eyes were brilliant, they just had that special sparkle. **When: Saturday, December 8. Where: In the general volunteer line about 4 times and out getting coats once too.. You: Man. Me: Woman. ☎ #902466**

S.O.S. PARTY 12/7
AMY,we talked about your past profession in antiquities + mine in historical restoration.I left without your number. You bought me a beer.I'd love to return the favor + continue our conversation. **When: Friday, December 7. Where: S.O.S. party @ Mercury Hall. You: Woman. Me: Man. ☎ #902465**

1ST THURSDAY-PINK
Walked in and gazed upon an angel sent to save me from all my sins. Wondered shy and aimlessly to work up courage. Your attention filled by the undeserving santas. **When: Thursday, December 6. Where: pink hair salon. You: Woman. Me: Woman. #902463**

PHOTOGRAPHER BLAKE
I-had-my-eye-on-you-last-year-at-Barton-Springs. You photographed the Monks' blessing. Then you disappeared. Now, a year later, you reappeared for a fleeting moment on the bus. My kingdom for a kiss upon the shoulder. **When: Monday, October 29. Where: UT ER. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902461**

LESLIE TODD RUNDGREN
Leslie, we met at the Todd Rundgren show. My tall friend wanted to leave too soon. I didn't get to talk to you. We discussed my short attention span. **When: Wednesday, December 5. Where: Antone's. You: Woman. Me: Man. ☎ #902460**

WFM ASIAN CUTIE!
Hey you! You bagged my groceries as we talked about "no country for old men!" You had red music tattoos and a "1962" tattoo. How about dinner and movie sometime? **When: Sunday, December 2. Where: Whole Foods Downtown. You: Man. Me: Woman. ☎ #902459**

ALSO ONLINE:
MORE **Shot in the Dark!**
Now with photos so you can see who saw you. Search by When, Where, and Keywords. **FREE!**

FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

by Rob Brezsny for December 21 - December 27

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19): French author and statesman André Malraux observed that Jesus Christ was the only anarchist who ever really succeeded. It's no coincidence that Christ was a Capricorn, I might add, since the evolved members of your tribe have many of the qualities necessary to thrive in situations where there are no formal rules or laws. If you would like to move more in the direction of being the highly evolved Capricorn you were born to be – and I think 2008 will be a very favorable time to do just that – you should cultivate the qualities of a successful anarchist. In other words, be self-motivated, disciplined, and respectful of the needs of other people. Do the right thing without having to be coerced to do the right thing. Foster in yourself a reverence for freedom and a knack for making constructive use of your freedom.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18): Last July 11, lightning zapped the steeple of the Newman United Methodist Church in Grants Pass, Ore. Later that same evening, another bolt from the heavens struck the exact same spot. Was this bad luck? A punishing message from an angry God? No. The rare double shot knocked the siding off the steeple, revealing a problem that no one at the church had suspected: The inner structure was rife with dry rot that soon would have caused collapse. In exposing the hidden danger, the lightning did everyone a big favor. I predict that you will benefit from a metaphorically comparable sequence in early 2008, Aquarius.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20): If you wanted to, you could be a skilled rainmaker in 2008, and make big bucks catalyzing downpours in drought-stricken areas. Your magical potentials are such that you might even be able to divert the flows of rivers, purify the pollution out of suffering lakes, and staunch the tears of people who've cried way too much. In other words, Pisces, you will have great power over the element of water. You could even use your wizardry to achieve a masterful equanimity toward your own oceanic emotions.

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19): "Ambition is a bad excuse for not having enough good sense to be lazy," my ex-girlfriend Arlene used to say. She claimed to be a Zen master whose duty it was to deprogram me out of my absurd striving to make something of myself. She believed the key to enlightenment was to do nothing as much as possible. "You're egotistically attached to your identity as a poet," she'd yell into my room as I toiled over my writing. "Come out here and show me you have the spiritual guts to sit in front of the TV and lose your grandiose self in a meaningless game show." While I did eventually emerge from our relationship with an appreciation for the value of emptiness, it was not ultimately my destiny to downplay ambition. On the contrary! Which is why I'm here to exhort you, Aries, to treat your desires as sacred rocket fuel – in 2008, more than ever. In the coming months, in accordance with your astrological omens, I will intensify my efforts to supercharge your ambition.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20): "Education is a method whereby one acquires a higher grade of prejudices," said author Laurence J. Peter. One of your top assignments in 2008 will be to prove him wrong. I hope that you will aggressively pursue a more authentic form of higher learning in numerous ways, from exploring the frontiers of your world to reading more good books to seeking out the company of original thinkers. I trust that as you expose yourself to novel data and expansive perspectives, you will get your mind blown over and over again.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20): How do you numb your pain, Gemini? In 2008, I suggest that you do that less than you ever have before. Instead, launch a fierce, relentless campaign to heal the pain so that you no longer have to numb it. The astrological omens say that if you establish that as your intention, you will attract into your life the helpers and inspiration you need to make it happen. More than that: You'll be likely to generate the kind of good fortune that will render at least some of the pain obsolete.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22): You worked your ass off in 2007. Am I right, my fellow Cancerian? In fact, you threw yourself into your hard labors with so much dutiful fervor that you sometimes lost sight of the fact that they were mostly just preparation for bigger and better assignments. Luckily for you, I'm here to snap you out of your amnesia. Please begin immediately to formulate a vision of how you will make the transition to those bigger and better assignments.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22): Some weeds are good for flowers and vegetables, protecting them from predatory insects. So say horticulturalists Stan Finch and Rosemary Collier, writing in *Biologist* magazine. When the bugs come looking for their special treats – the plants we love – they often get waylaid by the weeds, landing on them first and getting fooled into thinking there's nothing more valuable nearby. So, for example, when cabbages are planted in the midst of clover, flies lay eggs on only 7% of them, compared to a 36% infestation rate on cabbages that are grown in bare soil with no clover nearby. I recommend that you use this as a key metaphor in 2008, Leo. Make sure there are always a few chickweed or henbit weeds surrounding your ripening tomatoes.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22): "Life is a punishment," wrote poet Robert Frost. "All we can contribute to it is gracefulness in taking the punishment." That's the opposite of my philosophy. I say life is a miraculous gift, and the best way to express our gratitude is to be fountains of generosity. Where do you stand on the issue, Virgo? Even if you've had a view like Frost's up to this point in your journey, I think you'll have good reasons to convert to my perspective in 2008. You will, of course, have to be open to that possibility in order for it to happen. If you're addicted to believing that life is punishment, you'll miss a flood of clues contradicting that quaint notion.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22): The coming months will be a favorable time to work hard on improving your No. 1 relationship: you know, the one between you and yourself. So I hope you'll have a lot of long, deep, sympathetic conversations with yourself in 2008, even as you cut way back on the scattered, careless, unloving conversations. To get your pep talks off to a hot start, go to a mirror that makes you look your very best and unleash a hail of wild praise and outrageous compliments toward the gorgeous genius gazing back at you.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21): I meditated on the perfect holiday gift for you. What might inspire you to be in closest alignment with the cosmic currents in 2008? I decided that if I could, I'd buy you a costume shop. That way you could try on a thousand different masks and disguises. And that would put you in the proper frame of mind for the assignment I hope you will carry out all year long, which is to play with your identity and experiment with new self-images and maybe even treat your life as an epic theatrical extravaganza.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21): Due to the gravitational pull of the moon, the Earth's rotation is gradually slowing down. A billion years ago, a day lasted only 18 hours. In about 14 million years, it will be 48 hours long. Imagine how much more you'll be able to accomplish in your future incarnations with all that extra time. By then, I'm sure someone will have also invented a pill that reduces the amount of sleep you need, further boosting your capacity to get things done. In 2008, I predict you will be blessed with a foreshadowing of that glorious period 14 million years from now. You will work smarter and do things more efficiently and engage in less wasted motion and maintain a crisper to-do list. Because of that, time will seem to expand for you.

Go to **RealAstrology.com** to check out Rob Brezsny's
EXPANDED WEEKLY AUDIO HOROSCOPES and **DAILY TEXT MESSAGE HOROSCOPES**.
The audio horoscopes are also available by phone at **877/873-4888** or 900/950-7700.

ACHIEVE • EXCEL • LIVE WELL
Mind Technology* 340-0530

EGG DONORS NEEDED
$3,500-$5,000
(877) EGG-DONOR * www.spct.org

OLD NO.9 MUSIC SERIES SONGWRITER WORKSHOP
Who: Eliza Gilkyson
When: January 17-20, 2008
Where: Waring, TX (7 miles from Comfort)
www.oldno9.org
Email Kricket: kricketmri@comcast.net
or call 508-314-4762

HOT LOCAL DATELINE
BROWSE & RESPOND FREE!
(512) 457-1900 Straight
(512) 480-8400 Gay & Bi
Use FREE Code 7006, 18+

UPTOWN MODERN
Vintage Mid-Century Furnishings
5453 Burnet Rd--
www.uptownmodernaustin.com
20% off Vintage Jewelry Thru 12/31/07

GUITAR LESSONS
Classes for Women & Girls
girlpowerguitarschool.com

JAZZ BALLET COMPANY PRESENTS
THE NUTCRACKER
Dec. 16, 2:30 & 4:30pm Akins High School 442-2300

T SHIRT SCREEN PRINTING
BANDS * BUSINESS * SPORTS
Your #1 Source for Custom Screen Printing & More
Fast Turn Around! Low Price Guaranteed!
512-491-9344 capitoltshirtdesign@gmail.com

LIGHTNINGBULB.COM
NEWS * CULTURE * COMMENTARY
Wanna contribute? Email contact@lightningbulb.com

WORK FROM HOME! HIGH PAY OUTS.
18 + only . $7-$14.50/hr. Phone Actress/text chat agents/Psychic & other fun jobs! Call us 1-800-403-7772 or go to www.papillonagency.com Bi-Lingual a+

UTILIKILTS ARE HERE!
Things Celtic 1806 W. 35th 472-2358

SPEAK SPANISH NOW!
Small Groups, Affordable, Native Instructors
453-8680 http://www.creativelanguagecenter.com

TRY _____ YOURSELF
(part #9CN266)
rhett frazier, inc available at itunes

AUSTINPETFIRSTAID.COM
Pet First Aid Classes • Gift Cards Available

HOT *MERMAIDS* TUBS
512-762-0577
$60 1/2 HR. $100 HR., HIRING MERMAIDS

MOVIE EXTRAS, ACTORS, MODELS!
Make $100-$300/day. No Experience Required.
All looks and types needed! Get paid and have fun!
1-800-340-8404 ext.#2716 (AAN CAN)

PERMANENT MAKEUP SPECIAL $50 OFF!
Visit www.pmubylauren.com or call 743-7234

FLYING SAUCER
Landing Soon at the Triangle!
NOW HIRING!
BEER GODDESSES * BARTENDERS *
DOOR & KITCHEN STAFF
Email Ted: astngm@attglobal.net
CALL 512-454-7468
www.beernurd.com

MODELS $300-$500
Female figure models needed 18-50 (512) 257-0484

ACTORS DANCERS MODELS
Needed for club promotions and holiday events. Set-up and Teardown staff also needed. Call today 440-7171

ROLFING ®
Balance, Body, & Mind. Maximize Your Potential.
Allison Hubbard, Certified Rolfer (512) 441-4001.

THE MORAKESTRA
Skilled in Abelton Live? Call (915) 490-5622

LOCAL PHONE SERVICE
http://universalnumber.com

WINTER SOLSTICE PARTY
FREE concert with 3 bands - Sat. Dec. 22, 4-8 pm
1905 S. 1st - www.secretoktober.com - 462-9217

RAPID SPANISH
Best party in town! All levels.
http://www.RapidSpanish.com
512-263-9944.

THINK BIG.
BECOME A TEACHER
Texas Teaching Fellows seeks applicants for Bilingual Education, math, Science, and Special Education.
Apply online at
www.texasteachingfellows.org

PENIS ENLARGEMENT
FDA Approved medical vacuum pumps, Viagra, Testosterone, Cialis. Gain 1" - 3" permanently.
Free Brochures. 619-294-7777 24/7,
http://www.GetBiggerToday.com (AAN CAN)

austinchronicle.com
BACKPAGE
454 5767

GIFT OF DANCE!
Looking for a unique gift for the holidays?
Give them a gift they won't forget! DANCE!
Go Dance (512) 339-9391 www.godancestudio.com
2525 W. Anderson Lane #530 @ Northcross Mall

DNA & DRUG TESTING
480-TEST www.assuredtestingdna.com

ARE YOU FUNNY? LET'S FIND OUT.
Send what you got - jokes, skits, stories, ideas, routines, whatever - & a SASE. For critique/possible publication. The Funny Guys, 3736 Bee Caves Rd #1-154, Austin, TX 78746. We apologize for any inconvenience.

MOTORBLADE POSTERING
Fliers put up 100+ legal spots • $60 first wk • 554-4034

ITALY TOURS
www.ATasteOfItalyInAustin.com

PARLEZ FRANCAIS
All Levels - Advanced French 892-1963

NOT TOO EARLY TO BOOK YOUR
SXSW SPRING BREAK VACATION
Volunteers can earn perks to attend SXSW
Sign up now at www.sxsw.com/volunteer
and attend the 2008 Volunteer Call
Sunday, Jan. 20th Hilton Hotel, 500 E. 4th St.
Grand Ballroom, 6th Floor. 3:30 - 5:30pm.
Email vol@sxsw.com for more info!

SEAL YOUR RECORD
Don't let a dismissed criminal charge keep you out of a job. If you have had a criminal case dismissed or received deferred adjudication, you may be eligible for an expunction or order of non-disclosure. Call the Law Office of Paul Quinzi, Austin, TX, at 512-535-1081 to schedule a free consultation.

WESTLAKE CLINIC
Dr. Robert Marion, OMD, L.Ac.
Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine
30+ Years Experience
WestlakeClinic.com 327-6562

FEMALE MODELS CUTE, HAIRY AND/OR PREGNANT
Amateur female models • 18+ and up only • 552-2154 •
Up to $300-500 per session. www.austinglamour.com

ADDICTED TO PAIN MEDS?
Suboxone Detox / Maintenance
(512) 474-5904 www.poppswebsite.com

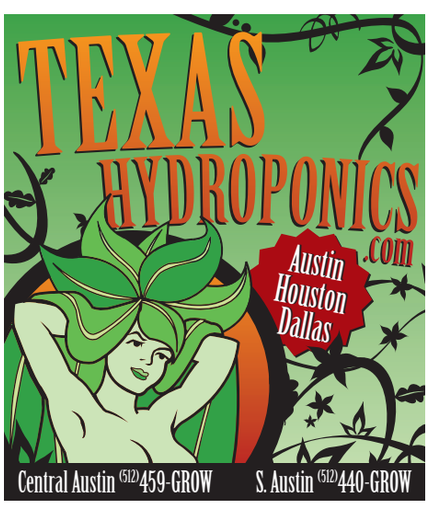
** MIDTOWNE SPA **
A PRIVATE MEN'S HEALTH CLUB
5815 Airport Blvd. • 302-9696
Mondays/Wednesdays- 1/2 price rooms!
Tuesdays/Thursdays- 1/2 price lockers!

23RD STREET ARTISTS' MARKET
at Guadalupe is one of the oldest continously running outdoor artists' markets in America. Offers only items designed, handcrafted & sold by the actual artists. Open every day. Artists: www.austinartistsmarket.com

THINGS CELTIC
Beautiful Jewelry & Unique Gifts
Extended Hours!
Dec. 20st - Dec. 22nd - 8AM to 7PM
Dec. 23rd - 10AM to 6PM
Dec 24th - 8AM to 7PM

MORNING STAR TRADING COMPANY
WOW!
MASSAGE TABLE PACKAGES FROM $199!
1919 S. First 476-1727
http://www.morningstarcompany.com

MOVIE EXTRAS, ACTORS, MODELS!
Make $100-$300/day. No Experience Required, Meet celebrities, Full Time/Part Time, All looks needed! Call Now! 1-800-556-6103 extension 528. (AAN CAN)

STICKERS FOR BANDS
Special! 500 Full-Color Stickers $139
thebumpersticker.com Stick With Us• 512-873-9626

AUSTINRENTAHOME.COM
Houses & Condos+; Property Mgt. Avail.
List and Browse Rentals Free